

**CAL FIRE GROWLERSBURG CONSERVATION CAMP
REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

**FINAL
INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
AND
RESPONSES TO COMMENTS**

**State Clearinghouse Number
2022030538
May 2022**

Lead Agency:



**California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814**

Prepared for:



**California Department of General Services
Real Estate Services Division
707 Third Street, Fourth Floor
West Sacramento, California 95605**



ECORP Consulting, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

**2525 Warren Drive
Rocklin, CA 95677**

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CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Pro
Notice of Determination

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

TO:

Office of Planning and Research
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM:

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code

PROJECT TITLE: CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project

State Clearinghouse Number

2022030538

Contact Person

Mr. Dakota Smith

Telephone Number

(916) 376-1700

Project Approval

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) adopted the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and approved the CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project on May X, 2022.

Project Location

The CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp (project site) is located in El Dorado County at 5540 Longview Lane, Georgetown in El Dorado County, California.

Project Description

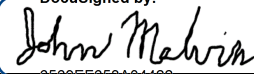
The Proposed Project includes the replacement/upgrade of the existing Conservation Camp and associated facilities/structures. New facilities to be constructed would include an administration building, 136-bed inmate dormitory building, inmate recreation building, inmate hobby building, 6-bed California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)/CAL FIRE barracks building, inmate kitchen and mess hall, multipurpose facility, inmate staging area (with restroom and showers), warehouse, carpentry shop, auto welding shop, vehicle storage building, sawmill shed, sawmill building, planer/assembly building (including dry kilns), pole barn, generate/pump/storage/building, covered vehicle rack, and vehicle wash recycling. The Proposed Project would be constructed on property currently controlled by CAL FIRE and an expansion area that is currently part of the camp property.

CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Pro
Notice of Determination

CAL FIRE, as the Lead Agency, has approved the above-described Project and has made the following determinations:

- There is no substantial evidence that the Proposed Project will have a significant effect on the environment;
- In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project was prepared. The Mitigated Negative Declaration has been adopted by CAL FIRE, which is the Lead Agency for the Proposed Project. The Mitigated Negative Declaration and record of project approval may be examined at the Department of General Services, Real Estate Services Division, 707 3rd Street, Fourth Floor, West Sacramento, California, 95605. The Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the CAL FIRE;
- Mitigation measures were required to be made a condition of approval of the Proposed Project;
- A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not required to be adopted for the Proposed Project; and
- A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan was adopted for the Proposed Project.

This is to certify that the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration including comments and responses, the mitigation monitoring and reporting plan, and record of Project approval is available to the general public at: Department of General Services, Real Estate Services Division, 707 3rd Street, Fourth Floor, West Sacramento, California, 95605.

DocuSigned by:

0569EP053A04422...
 Signature

6/2/2022

Date

John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director
Resource Protection & Improvement
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____

**CAL FIRE GROWLERSBURG CONSERVATION CAMP
REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

**FINAL
INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
State Clearinghouse Number**

2022030538

May 2022

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CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project
Final Mitigated Negative Declaration Approval

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Final Mitigated Negative Declaration Approval

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CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Replacement Project
Final Mitigated Negative Declaration Approval

FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
GROWLERSBURG CONSERVATION CAMP REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Lead Agency: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

Project Proponent: California Department of General Services (DGS) – Real Estate Services Division

Project Location:

The Project site is located in El Dorado County at 5540 Longview Lane, Georgetown in El Dorado County, California.

Project Description:

The Proposed Project includes the replacement/upgrade of the existing Conservation Camp and associated facilities/structures. New facilities to be constructed would include an administration building, 136-bed inmate dormitory building, inmate recreation building, inmate hobby building, six-bed California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)/CAL FIRE barracks building, inmate kitchen and mess hall, multipurpose facility, inmate staging area (with restroom and showers), warehouse, carpentry shop, auto welding shop, vehicle storage building, sawmill shed, sawmill building, planer/assembly building (including dry kilns), pole barn, generate/pump/storage/building, covered vehicle rack, and vehicle wash recycling. The Proposed Project would be constructed on property currently controlled by CAL FIRE and an expansion area that is currently part of the camp property.

Finding:

Based on the information contained in the attached Initial Study, CAL FIRE finds that there would not be a significant effect to the environment because the mitigation measures described herein would be incorporated as part of the Proposed Project.

Public Review Period: March 21, 2022– April 20, 2022

Mitigation Measures Incorporated into the Project to Avoid Significant Effects

Biological Resources

PLANT-1: Floristic Plant Surveys. Perform floristic plant surveys where Project implementation will impact California black oak woodlands or mixed conifer forest and woodland communities according to USFWS, CDFW, and CNPS protocols prior to construction. A qualified biologist should conduct the surveys and time them according to the appropriate phenological stage for identifying target species. Known reference populations should be visited and/or local herbaria records should be reviewed, if available, prior to surveys to confirm the phenological stage of the target species. If no special-status plants are found within the Project impact areas, no further measures pertaining to special-status plants are necessary.

PLANT-2: Special-Status Plants. If special-status plants are identified within 25-feet of the Project impact area, implement the following measures:

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- If avoidance of special-status plants is feasible, establish and clearly demarcate avoidance zones for special-status plant occurrences prior to construction. Avoidance zones should include the extent of the special-status plants, plus a 25-foot buffer, unless otherwise determined by a qualified biologist, and should be maintained until the completion of construction. A qualified biologist/biological monitor should be present if work must occur within the avoidance buffer to ensure special-status plants are not impacted by the work.
- If avoidance of special-status plants is not feasible, mitigate for significant impacts to special-status plants. Mitigation measures shall be developed in consultation with CDFW. Mitigation measures may include permanent preservation of onsite or offsite habitat for special-status plants and/or translocation of plants or seeds from impacted areas to unaffected habitats.

BIRD-1: Pre- Construction Nesting Bird Surveys. If construction is to occur during the nesting season (generally February 1 - August 31), conduct a pre-construction nesting bird survey of all suitable nesting habitat within 14 days of the commencement of construction. The survey shall be conducted within a 500-foot radius of Project impact limits for raptors and within a 100-foot radius for other nesting birds. If any active nests are observed, these nests shall be designated a sensitive area and protected by an avoidance buffer established by a qualified biologist in coordination with CDFW until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or parental care for survival. Pre-construction nesting surveys are not required for construction activity outside the nesting season.

BAT-1: Pre- Construction Bat Surveys. Within 14 days prior to Project activities that may impact bat roosting habitat (e.g., removal of manmade structures or trees), a qualified biologist will survey for all suitable roosting habitat within the Project impact limits. If suitable roosting habitat is not identified, no further measures are necessary. If suitable roosting habitat is identified, a qualified biologist will conduct an evening bat emergence survey that may include acoustic monitoring to determine whether or not bats are present. If roosting bats are determined to be present within the Project impact limits, consultation with CDFW prior to initiation of construction activities and/or preparation of a Bat Management Plan outlining avoidance and minimization measures specific to the roost(s) potentially affected may be required.

OAK-1: Mitigate through Mother Lode Land Trust. The proposed project will pay the Mother Lode Land Trust (nonprofit organization) a total of \$89,600 for the purchase of property containing Oak Woodland for permanent conservation and stewardship.

Cultural Resources

CUL-1: Unanticipated Cultural Resources Discoveries. Implement Measures to Protect Unanticipated Discoveries of Cultural Resources or Human Remains.

- If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's

CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Replacement Project
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Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeologist, shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find, and shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment. The following notifications shall apply, depending on the nature of the find:

- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately, and no agency notifications are required.
- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does represent a cultural resource from any time period or cultural affiliation, he or she shall immediately notify CAL FIRE. The agency shall consult on a finding of eligibility and implement appropriate treatment measures, if the find is determined to be an Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the Lead Agency, through consultation as appropriate, determines that the site either: 1) is not an Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines; or 2) that the treatment measures have been completed to its satisfaction.
- If the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, he or she shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance (AB 2641). The archaeologist shall notify the El Dorado County Coroner (per § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of § 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, § 5097.98 of the California PRC, and AB 2641 will be implemented. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which then will designate a Native American MLD for the project (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC may mediate (§ 5097.94 of the PRC). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate CHRIS; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinternment document with the county in which the property is located (AB 2641). Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the Lead Agency, through consultation as appropriate, determines that the treatment measures have been completed to its satisfaction.

Geology and Soils

GEO-1: Discovery of Unknown Paleontological Resources.

- If any paleontological resources (i.e., fossils) are found during Project construction, construction shall be halted immediately in the subject area and the area shall be isolated using orange or yellow fencing until CAL FIRE is notified and the area is

CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Replacement Project
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cleared for future work. A qualified paleontologist shall be retained to evaluate the find and recommend appropriate treatment of the inadvertently discovered paleontological resources. In addition, in the event of an inadvertent find, sediment samples should be collected and processed to determine the small fossil potential on the Project Site. If CAL FIRE resumes work in a location where paleontological remains have been discovered and cleared, CAL FIRE will have a paleontologist onsite to observe any continuing excavation to confirm that no additional paleontological resources are in the area. Any fossil materials uncovered during mitigation activities should be deposited in an accredited and permanent scientific institution for the benefit of current and future generations.

Tribal Cultural Resources

TCR-1: Implement Measures to Protect Unanticipated Tribal Cultural Resources Discoveries. If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within 100 feet of the discovery. The construction foreman will notify DGS and CAL FIRE, which shall notify culturally affiliated tribe(s) and a qualified professional archaeologist. The responding tribe(s) will be afforded a reasonable opportunity to visit the discovery location to determine whether or not it is a tribal cultural resource. The following actions shall apply, depending on the nature of the find:

- If the culturally affiliated tribe(s) determines that the find does not represent a tribal cultural resource, and the qualified professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a potential historical resource, and CAL FIRE concurs, then work may resume immediately, and no further action is required.
- If the culturally affiliated or consulting tribe(s) determines that the find does represent a tribal cultural resource, as defined in PRC Section 21074(a) though (c) of the CEQA Guidelines, DGS and CAL FIRE shall consult with the tribe on appropriate treatment measures. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until DGS and CAL FIRE, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.
- If the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, the construction supervisor shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance (Assembly Bill [AB] 2641) and shall immediately notify DGS, CAL FIRE, and the El Dorado County Coroner (per § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of § 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, § 5097.98 of the California PRC, and AB 2641 will be implemented. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner will notify the NAHC within 24 hours. The NAHC will designate a Native American MLD for the discovery (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC can mediate (§ 5097.94 of the PRC). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (§ 5097.98 of the PRC).

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This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinternment document with El Dorado County (AB 2641). Work may not resume within the no-work radius until DGS and/or CAL FIRE, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.

CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project
Final Mitigated Negative Declaration Approval

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is the Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (Final IS/MND) including the Responses to Comments and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project. It has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resource Code Section 21000 et. seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000 et seq.) as amended. This Final IS/MND and Responses to Comments document supplements and updates the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND) released for public review on March 21, 2022.

CAL FIRE is the Lead Agency for the Proposed Project. On March 21, 2022, CAL FIRE distributed the Draft IS/MND for the proposed Project to public agencies and the general public for review and comment. In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines, a 30-day review period, which ended on April 20, 2022, was completed. During the public review period, two comment letters on the Draft IS/MND were received from interested parties.

This Final IS/MND and Responses to Comments document is organized as follows:

- Section 1.0 provides a discussion of the purpose of the document and discusses the structure of the document;
- Section 2.0 contains a summary of the Project Description, a description of minor changes to the Project Description and a discussion regarding why these changes do not require recirculation of the Draft IS/MND;
- Section 3.0 includes the comment letters received and responses to these comments;
- Section 4.0 includes corrections and revisions made to the Draft IS/MND in response to comments;
- Section 5.0 includes the Proposed Project's Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081.6; and
- Section 6.0 includes the Notice of Intent, Proof of Publication, Environmental Filing Receipt, and the Draft IS/MND.

This Final MND document and the Draft IS/MND together constitute the environmental document for the proposed Project. As a result of comments received on the Draft IS/MND, no revisions were required to the Draft IS/MND text, consequently, there were no substantial revisions that would require recirculation of the document. A substantial revision according to Section 15073.5 of the 2021 CEQA *Statute Guidelines* shall mean:

- “(1) A new, avoidable significant effect is identified and mitigation measures or project revisions must be added in order to reduce the effect to insignificance, or
- (2) The lead agency determines that the proposed mitigation measures or project revisions will not reduce potential effects to less than significance and new measures or revisions must be required.”

CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project
Final Mitigated Negative Declaration Approval

2.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW

2.1 Project Location

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project is located in El Dorado County at 5540 Longview Lane, Georgetown in El Dorado County, California.

2.2 Project Description

The Proposed Project includes the replacement/upgrade of the existing Conservation Camp and associated facilities/structures. New facilities to be constructed would include an administration building, 136-bed inmate dormitory building, inmate recreation building, inmate hobby building, six-bed California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)/CAL FIRE barracks building, inmate kitchen and mess hall, multipurpose facility, inmate staging area (with restroom and showers), warehouse, carpentry shop, auto welding shop, vehicle storage building, sawmill shed, sawmill building, planer/assembly building (including dry kilns), pole barn, generate/pump/storage/building, covered vehicle rack, and vehicle wash recycling. The Proposed Project would be constructed on property currently controlled by CAL FIRE and an expansion area that is currently part of the camp property.

2.3 Decision Not to Recirculate Draft MND

No changes were made to the IS/MND after the completion of the public/agency comment period for the Draft IS/MND. According to Section 15073.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines, "A lead agency is required to recirculate a negative declaration when the document must be substantially revised after public notice of its availability has been given pursuant to Section 15072 but prior to its adoption."

Because no revisions were proposed, this Final MND does not meet the criteria for recirculation provided in Section 15073.5 (c) of the CEQA Guidelines. These criteria are provided below, along with an explanation regarding the reasons why the changes to the Project do not require recirculation.

Recirculation is not required under the following circumstances:

- (1) Mitigation measures are replaced with equal or more effective measures pursuant to Section 15074.1.
 - a. *No mitigation measures have been replaced.*
- (2) New Project revisions are added in response to written or verbal comments on the Project's effects identified in the proposed negative declaration which are not new avoidable significant effects.
 - a. *No revisions to the Project as described in the Draft IS/MND have been made.*
- (3) Measures or conditions of Project approval are added after circulation of the negative declaration, which is not required by CEQA, which do not create new significant environmental effects, and are not necessary to mitigate an avoidable significant effect.
 - a. *As discussed, no new mitigation measures or conditions have been added.*

CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project
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- (4) New information is added to the negative declaration which merely clarifies, amplifies, or makes insignificant modifications to the negative declaration.
- a. No new information has been added to the MND.*

CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project
Final Mitigated Negative Declaration Approval**3.0 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES**

This section of the document contains copies of the comment letters received during the 30-day public review period, which began on March 21, 2022 and ended April 20, 2022. In conformance with Section 15088(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines, CAL FIRE has considered comments on environmental issues from reviewers of the Draft IS/MND and has prepared written responses. Two comment letters were received via email, commenting on the Draft IS/MND. This letter, and the responses to the comments contained in the letter are provided in this section.

A list of public agencies, organizations, and individuals that provided comments on the Draft IS/MND is presented below. The letter and responses to comments follow this page.

3.1 List of Comment Letters

Letter Number	Sender	Date Received
1	Department of Substance Control	April 8, 2022
2	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board	April 18, 2022

CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project
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**3.2 Letter 1: Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) – Gavin McCreary,
Project Manager, Project Manager, received April 8, 2022**



Meredith Williams, Ph.D.
Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200

Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April 8, 2022

Mr. Dakota Smith
Senior Environmental Planner
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
707 Third Street, 4th Floor
West Sacramento, California 95605
Dakota.Smith@dgs.ca.gov

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Apr 08 2022

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR CAL FIRE GROWLERSBURG
CONSERVATION CAMP REPLACEMENT – DATED MARCH 2022
(STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 2022030538)

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement (Project). The Lead Agency is receiving this notice from DTSC because the Project includes one or more of the following: groundbreaking activities, work in close proximity to a roadway, work in close proximity to mining or suspected mining or former mining activities, presence of site buildings that may require demolition or modifications, importation of backfill soil, and/or work on or in close proximity to an agricultural or former agricultural site.

DTSC recommends that the following issues be evaluated in the Hazards and Hazardous Materials section of the MND:

1. The MND should acknowledge the potential for historic or future activities on or near the project site to result in the release of hazardous wastes/substances on the project site. In instances in which releases have occurred or may occur, further studies should be carried out to delineate the nature and extent of the contamination, and the potential threat to public health and/or the environment should be evaluated. The MND should also identify the mechanism(s) to initiate

DTSC -1

CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project
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Mr. Dakota Smith
April 8, 2022
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any required investigation and/or remediation and the government agency who will be responsible for providing appropriate regulatory oversight.

DTSC -2

2. Refiners in the United States started adding lead compounds to gasoline in the 1920s in order to boost octane levels and improve engine performance. This practice did not officially end until 1992 when lead was banned as a fuel additive in California. Tailpipe emissions from automobiles using leaded gasoline contained lead and resulted in aerially deposited lead (ADL) being deposited in and along roadways throughout the state. ADL-contaminated soils still exist along roadsides and medians and can also be found underneath some existing road surfaces due to past construction activities. Due to the potential for ADL-contaminated soil DTSC, recommends collecting soil samples for lead analysis prior to performing any intrusive activities for the project described in the MND.

DTSC -3

3. If any sites within the project area or sites located within the vicinity of the project have been used or are suspected of having been used for mining activities, proper investigation for mine waste should be discussed in the MND. DTSC recommends that any project sites with current and/or former mining operations onsite or in the project site area should be evaluated for mine waste according to DTSC's 1998 [Abandoned Mine Land Mines Preliminary Assessment Handbook](#).

DTSC -4

4. If buildings or other structures are to be demolished on any project sites included in the proposed project, surveys should be conducted for the presence of lead-based paints or products, mercury, asbestos containing materials, and polychlorinated biphenyl caulk. Removal, demolition and disposal of any of the above-mentioned chemicals should be conducted in compliance with California environmental regulations and policies. In addition, sampling near current and/or former buildings should be conducted in accordance with DTSC's 2006 [Interim Guidance Evaluation of School Sites with Potential Contamination from Lead Based Paint, Termiticides, and Electrical Transformers](#).

DTSC -5

5. If any projects initiated as part of the proposed project require the importation of soil to backfill any excavated areas, proper sampling should be conducted to ensure that the imported soil is free of contamination. DTSC recommends the imported materials be characterized according to [DTSC's 2001 Information Advisory Clean Imported Fill Material](#).

DTSC -6

6. If any sites included as part of the proposed project have been used for agricultural, weed abatement or related activities, proper investigation for organochlorinated pesticides should be discussed in the MND. DTSC recommends the current and former agricultural lands be evaluated in

CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project
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Mr. Dakota Smith
April 8, 2022
Page 3

accordance with DTSC's 2008 [Interim Guidance for Sampling Agricultural Properties \(Third Revision\)](#).

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the MND. Should you need any assistance with an environmental investigation, please visit DTSC's [Site Mitigation and Restoration Program](#) page to apply for lead agency oversight. Additional information regarding voluntary agreements with DTSC can be found at [DTSC's Brownfield website](#).

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 255-3710 or via email at Gavin.McCreary@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Gavin McCreary
Project Manager
Site Evaluation and Remediation Unit
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
Department of Toxic Substances Control

cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

Mr. Dave Kereazis
Office of Planning & Environmental Analysis
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Dave.Kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov

Responses to Comment Letter 1:***Response to Comment DTSC-1:***

ECORP conducted a search of the DTSC's Hazardous Waste and Substance List (Cortese List), EnviroStor online database, and the SWRCB's GeoTracker online database for the Project Area and did not identify any potential or confirmed active state or federal Superfund sites located within or immediately adjacent to the Project site. The Proposed Project involves replacement of structures as part of an existing conservation camp. Project features include a new fuel storage shed, an above ground fuel vault and a new propane tank, all of which would be designed to meet the latest safety standards. The Project will not increase the potential for hazardous materials releases at the Project Site or within the nearby vicinity and would upgrade existing facilities used for hazardous materials storage to meet the most current regulations.

Response to Comment DTSC-2:

The Project does not include improvements or construction activities along public roads and medians in the project vicinity. The Project involves demolition and reconstruction of an existing conservation camp and does not require construction or improvements to the surrounding road network.

Response to Comment DTSC-3:

The Project is not located within an area that is currently or has formally been used, or suspected of being used, for mining operations.

Response to Comment DTSC -4:

The California Department of General Services (DGS) has indicated that based on the age of the facilities and the buildings proposed to be demolished, surveys will be conducted for lead-based paints or products, asbestos containing materials and any other potential hazardous materials. In addition, sampling will be conducted around the existing fuel tanks and shop buildings to determine if any contaminated soil is present. If any hazardous materials are identified, they would be removed and disposed of in compliance with California environmental regulations and policies. DGS/CAL FIRE would commission the testing of all buildings and areas where contamination may occur prior to demolition.

Response to Comment DTSC -5:

The Proposed Project will not require importation of soil or backfill from an offsite location.

Response to Comment DTSC -6:

No sites within the Proposed Project Area have historically been used for agricultural, weed abatement or related activities and investigations for organochlorinated pesticides is not warranted. Letter 2: Regional Water Quality Board (RWQCB) – Greg Hendricks, Environmental Scientists, received April 19, 2022

CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project
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Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

18 April 2022

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Dakota Smith
California Department of General Services
707 3rd Street, 4th Floor
West Sacramento, CA 95605
dakota.smith@dgs.ca.gov

Apr 19 2022

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, GROWLERSBURG CONSERVATION CAMP REPLACEMENT PROJECT, SCH#2022030538, EL DORADO COUNTY

Pursuant to the State Clearinghouse's 21 March 2022 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the *Request for Review for the Mitigated Negative Declaration* for the Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project, located in El Dorado County.

Our agency is delegated with the responsibility of protecting the quality of surface and groundwaters of the state; therefore our comments will address concerns surrounding those issues.

I. Regulatory Setting**Basin Plan**

The Central Valley Water Board is required to formulate and adopt Basin Plans for all areas within the Central Valley region under Section 13240 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Each Basin Plan must contain water quality objectives to ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses, as well as a program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives with the Basin Plans. Federal regulations require each state to adopt water quality standards to protect the public health or welfare, enhance the quality of water and serve the purposes of the Clean Water Act. In California, the beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and the Antidegradation Policy are the State's water quality standards. Water quality standards are also contained in the National Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.36, and the California Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.38.

The Basin Plan is subject to modification as necessary, considering applicable laws, policies, technologies, water quality conditions and priorities. The original Basin Plans were adopted in 1975, and have been updated and revised periodically as required, using Basin Plan amendments. Once the Central Valley Water Board has adopted a Basin Plan amendment in noticed public hearings, it must be approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Office of

MARK BRADFORD, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley

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Administrative Law (OAL) and in some cases, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Basin Plan amendments only become effective after they have been approved by the OAL and in some cases, the USEPA. Every three (3) years, a review of the Basin Plan is completed that assesses the appropriateness of existing standards and evaluates and prioritizes Basin Planning issues. For more information on the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins*, please visit our website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/

Antidegradation Considerations

All wastewater discharges must comply with the Antidegradation Policy (State Water Board Resolution 68-16) and the Antidegradation Implementation Policy contained in the Basin Plan. The Antidegradation Implementation Policy is available on page 74 at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/sacsjr_2018_05.pdf

In part it states:

Any discharge of waste to high quality waters must apply best practicable treatment or control not only to prevent a condition of pollution or nuisance from occurring, but also to maintain the highest water quality possible consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State.

This information must be presented as an analysis of the impacts and potential impacts of the discharge on water quality, as measured by background concentrations and applicable water quality objectives.

WB 1

The antidegradation analysis is a mandatory element in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and land discharge Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) permitting processes. The environmental review document should evaluate potential impacts to both surface and groundwater quality.

II. Permitting Requirements

Construction Storm Water General Permit

Dischargers whose project disturb one or more acres of soil or where projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Construction General Permit), Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ. Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, grubbing, disturbances to the ground, such as stockpiling, or excavation, but does not include regular maintenance activities performed to restore the original line, grade, or capacity of the facility. The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). For more information on the Construction General Permit, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at:

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http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml

Phase I and II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits¹

The Phase I and II MS4 permits require the Permittees reduce pollutants and runoff flows from new development and redevelopment using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). MS4 Permittees have their own development standards, also known as Low Impact Development (LID)/post-construction standards that include a hydromodification component. The MS4 permits also require specific design concepts for LID/post-construction BMPs in the early stages of a project during the entitlement and CEQA process and the development plan review process.

For more information on which Phase I MS4 Permit this project applies to, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/municipal_permits/

For more information on the Phase II MS4 permit and who it applies to, visit the State Water Resources Control Board at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_ii_municipal.shtml

Industrial Storm Water General Permit

Storm water discharges associated with industrial sites must comply with the regulations contained in the Industrial Storm Water General Permit Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ. For more information on the Industrial Storm Water General Permit, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/industrial_general_permits/index.shtml

Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit

If the project will involve the discharge of dredged or fill material in navigable waters or wetlands, a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act may be needed from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). If a Section 404 permit is required by the USACE, the Central Valley Water Board will review the permit application to ensure that discharge will not violate water quality standards. If the project requires surface water drainage realignment, the applicant is advised to contact the Department of Fish and Game for information on Streambed Alteration Permit requirements. If you have any questions regarding the Clean Water Act

¹ Municipal Permits = The Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Water System (MS4) Permit covers medium sized Municipalities (serving between 100,000 and 250,000 people) and large sized municipalities (serving over 250,000 people). The Phase II MS4 provides coverage for small municipalities, including non-traditional Small MS4s, which include military bases, public campuses, prisons and hospitals.

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Section 404 permits, please contact the Regulatory Division of the Sacramento District of USACE at (916) 557-5250.

Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit – Water Quality Certification

If an USACE permit (e.g., Non-Reporting Nationwide Permit, Nationwide Permit, Letter of Permission, Individual Permit, Regional General Permit, Programmatic General Permit), or any other federal permit (e.g., Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act or Section 9 from the United States Coast Guard), is required for this project due to the disturbance of waters of the United States (such as streams and wetlands), then a Water Quality Certification must be obtained from the Central Valley Water Board prior to initiation of project activities. There are no waivers for 401 Water Quality Certifications. For more information on the Water Quality Certification, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/water_quality_certification/

Waste Discharge Requirements – Discharges to Waters of the State

If USACE determines that only non-jurisdictional waters of the State (i.e., “non-federal” waters of the State) are present in the proposed project area, the proposed project may require a Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) permit to be issued by Central Valley Water Board. Under the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, discharges to all waters of the State, including all wetlands and other waters of the State including, but not limited to, isolated wetlands, are subject to State regulation. For more information on the Waste Discharges to Surface Water NPDES Program and WDR processes, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/waste_to_surface_water/

Projects involving excavation or fill activities impacting less than 0.2 acre or 400 linear feet of non-jurisdictional waters of the state and projects involving dredging activities impacting less than 50 cubic yards of non-jurisdictional waters of the state may be eligible for coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ (General Order 2004-0004). For more information on the General Order 2004-0004, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2004/wqo/wqo2004-0004.pdf

Dewatering Permit

If the proposed project includes construction or groundwater dewatering to be discharged to land, the proponent may apply for coverage under State Water Board General Water Quality Order (Low Threat General Order) 2003-0003 or the Central Valley Water Board’s Waiver of Report of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements (Low Threat Waiver) R5-2018-0085. Small temporary construction dewatering projects are projects that discharge groundwater to land from excavation activities or dewatering of underground utility vaults. Dischargers seeking coverage

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Response to Comment WB-1:

The environmental document addresses potential impacts the Project may have on groundwater, water quality, and waters on site in Chapter 4-10 *Hydrology and Water Quality* and Chapter 4-4 *Biological Resources* in the Draft IS/MND. The Project will comply with all applicable regulations and obtain all necessary permits. Applicable permits from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board that will be obtained as a part of the Proposed Project include a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit and a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. Additionally, based on the aquatic resources delineation, the only aquatic resource present within the Study Area is the Georgetown Divide Ditch, which is managed by the GDPUD. This ditch is not likely to be jurisdictional based on current definitions of Waters of the U.S. and Waters of the State. Further, there are no Proposed Project impacts to this ditch. There are no other aquatic resources onsite. All potential impacts are less than significant or will be mitigated to a less than significant.

Response to Comment WB-2:

See response to comment WB-1.

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4.0 MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN

4.1 Introduction

In accordance with CEQA, an MND that identifies adverse impacts related to construction and operation of the Project was prepared. The MND identifies mitigation measures that would reduce or eliminate these impacts.

Section 21081.6 of the Public Resources Code and Sections 15091(d) and 15097 of the State CEQA Guidelines require public agencies to adopt a reporting and monitoring program for changes to the Project which it has adopted or made a condition of project approval in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment. An MMRP is required for the Proposed Project because the IS/MND identified potentially significant adverse impacts related to construction and operation of the Proposed Project, and mitigation measures have been identified to mitigate these impacts. Adoption of the MMRP will occur along with approval of the Proposed Project.

4.2 Purpose of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan

This MMRP has been prepared to ensure that all required mitigation measures are implemented and completed according to schedule and maintained in a satisfactory manner during the construction and operation of the Proposed Project, as required. The MMRP may be modified by the Lead Agency through consultation with the appropriate regulatory agency during Project implementation, as necessary, in response to changing conditions or other Project refinements. **Table 3-1** has been prepared to assist the responsible parties in implementing the MMRP. This table identifies the category of significant environmental impact(s), individual mitigation measures, monitoring and mitigation timing, responsible person/agency for implementing the measure, monitoring and reporting procedure, and notation space to confirm implementation of the mitigation measures. The numbering of the mitigation measures follows the numbering sequence in the IS/MND.

4.3 Roles and Responsibilities

The Lead Agency is responsible for oversight of compliance of the mitigation measures in the MMRP.

4.4 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan

The column categories identified in **Table 3-1** are described below.

- **Mitigation Measure** – This column lists the mitigation measures by number.
- **Monitoring Activity/Timing/Frequency/Schedule** – This column lists the activity to be monitored for each mitigation measure, the timing of each activity, and the frequency/schedule of monitoring for each activity.
- **Implementation Responsibility/Verification** – This column identifies the entity responsible for complying with the requirements of the mitigation measure and provides space for verification initials and date.
- **Responsibility for Oversight of Compliance/Verification** – This column provides the agency responsible for oversight of the mitigation implementation and is to be dated and initialed by

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the agency representative based on the documentation provided by the construction contractor or through personal verification by agency staff.

- **Outside Agency Coordination** – This column lists any agencies with which CAL FIRE and/or DGS may coordinate for implementation of the mitigation measure.
- **Comments** – This column provides space for written comments, if necessary.

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Table 5-1
Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project
Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Implementation Actions and Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Responsibility for Oversight of Compliance/ Verification	Agency Coordination	Comments
Biological Resources					
<p>There is no potential habitat for federal- or State-listed plant species in the Study Area, but there is potential or low potential for 14 non-listed special-status plant species to occur. The following measures are recommended to minimize potential impacts to special-status plants:</p> <p>PLANT-1: Floristic Plant Surveys. Perform floristic plant surveys where Project implementation will impact California black oak woodlands or mixed conifer forest and woodland communities according to USFWS, CDFW, and CNPS protocols prior to construction. A qualified biologist should conduct the surveys and time them according to the appropriate phenological stage for identifying target species. Known reference populations should be visited and/or local herbaria records should be reviewed, if available, prior to surveys to confirm the phenological stage of the target species. If no special-status plants are found</p>	<p>Action: Floristic Plant Surveys.</p> <p>Timing: Prior to the start of construction.</p>	<p>Project Biologist</p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p>CAL FIRE, DGS</p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p>USFWS, CDFW</p>	

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Mitigation Measure	Implementation Actions and Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Responsibility for Oversight of Compliance/ Verification	Agency Coordination	Comments
<p>within the Project impact areas, no further measures pertaining to special-status plants are necessary.</p>					
<p>If special-status plants are identified within 25 feet of the Project footprint, implement the following measures:</p> <p>PLANT-2: Special-Status Plants. If special-status plants are identified within 25-feet of the Project impact area, implement the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If avoidance of special-status plants is feasible, establish and clearly demarcate avoidance zones for special-status plant occurrences prior to construction. Avoidance zones should include the extent of the special-status plants, plus a 25-foot buffer, unless otherwise determined by a qualified biologist, and should be maintained until the completion of construction. A qualified biologist/biological monitor should be present if work must occur within the avoidance buffer to ensure special-status plants are not impacted by the work. • If avoidance of special-status plants is not feasible, mitigate for significant impacts to 	<p>Action:</p> <p>25-foot buffer around identified special-status plants as avoidance zones.</p> <p>Timing:</p> <p>Prior to the start of construction.</p>	<p>Project Biologist</p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <p>Date</p>	<p>CAL FIRE, DGS</p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <p>Date</p>	<p>USFWS, CDFW</p>	

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Mitigation Measure	Implementation Actions and Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Responsibility for Oversight of Compliance/ Verification	Agency Coordination	Comments
<p>special-status plants. Mitigation measures shall be developed in consultation with CDFW. Mitigation measures may include permanent preservation of onsite or offsite habitat for special-status plants and/or translocation of plants or seeds from impacted areas to unaffected habitats.</p>					
<p>For Project activities with potential to affect active nests of special-status birds and birds protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the following measures are recommended to prevent potential impacts to active raptor nests.</p> <p>BIRD-1: Pre- Construction Nesting Bird Surveys. If construction is to occur during the nesting season (generally February 1 - August 31), conduct a pre-construction nesting bird survey of all suitable nesting habitat within 14 days of the commencement of construction. The survey shall be conducted within a 500-foot radius of Project impact limits for raptors and within a 100-foot radius for other nesting birds. If any active nests are observed, these nests shall be designated a sensitive area and protected by an avoidance buffer established by a</p>	<p>Action: Special-Status Bird Surveys.</p> <p>Timing: Should construction occur during nesting season (February 1 – August 31), surveys shall occur within 14 days of commencement of construction.</p>	<p>Project Biologist</p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p>CAL FIRE, DGS</p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p>CDFW</p>	

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Mitigation Measure	Implementation Actions and Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Responsibility for Oversight of Compliance/ Verification	Agency Coordination	Comments
<p>qualified biologist in coordination with CDFW until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or parental care for survival. Pre-construction nesting surveys are not required for construction activity outside the nesting season.</p>					
<p>There is potential for two special-status bats to occur within the Study Area, and some potentially suitable roosting habitat within the Study Area may be impacted. The following measure is recommended to minimize potential impacts to special-status bats.</p> <p>BAT-1: Pre- Construction Bat Surveys. Within 14 days prior to Project activities that may impact bat roosting habitat (e.g., removal of manmade structures or trees), a qualified biologist will survey for all suitable roosting habitat within the Project impact limits. If suitable roosting habitat is not identified, no further measures are necessary. If suitable roosting habitat is identified, a qualified</p>	<p>Action: Special-Status Bat Surveys. <i>If suitable habitat is identified:</i> <i>Bat Management Plan.</i> <i>Consultation with CDFW.</i></p> <p>Timing: Within 14 days prior to demolition activities.</p>	<p>Project Biologist</p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <p>Date</p>	<p>CAL FIRE, DGS</p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <p>Date</p>	<p>CDFW</p>	

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<p>biologist will conduct an evening bat emergence survey that may include acoustic monitoring to determine whether or not bats are present. If roosting bats are determined to be present within the Project impact limits, consultation with CDFW prior to initiation of construction activities and/or preparation of a Bat Management Plan outlining avoidance and minimization measures specific to the roost(s) potentially affected may be required.</p>					
<p>OAK-1: Mitigate through Mother Lode Land Trust. The proposed project will pay the Mother Lode Land Trust (nonprofit organization) a total of \$89,600 for the purchase of property containing Oak Woodland for permanent conservation and stewardship.</p>					
<i>Cultural Resources</i>					
<p>CUL-1: Unanticipated Cultural Resources Discoveries. Implement Measures to</p>	<p>Action: Construction monitoring.</p>	<p>Project Archaeologist,</p>	<p>CAL FIRE, DGS</p>		

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Mitigation Measure	Implementation Actions and Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Responsibility for Oversight of Compliance/ Verification	Agency Coordination	Comments
<p>Protect Unanticipated Discoveries of Cultural Resources or Human Remains.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeologist, shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find, and shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment. The following notifications shall apply, depending on the nature of the find: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately, and no agency notifications are required. If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does represent a cultural resource from any time period or cultural affiliation, he or she shall immediately notify CAL FIRE. The agency shall consult on a finding of eligibility and implement appropriate treatment measures, if the find is determined to be an Historical Resource under CEQA, as 	<p>Timing: Provide ground-disturbing activities schedule to archaeological monitor at least seven days prior to activity.</p>	<p>Construction Manager</p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <p>Date</p>	<p>Initials</p> <p>Date</p>		

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<p>defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the Lead Agency, through consultation as appropriate, determines that the site either: 1) is not an Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines; or 2) that the treatment measures have been completed to its satisfaction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, he or she shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance (AB 2641). The archaeologist shall notify the El Dorado County Coroner (per § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of § 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, § 5097.98 of the California PRC, and AB 2641 will be implemented. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which then will designate a Native American MLD for the project (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not 					

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Mitigation Measure	Implementation Actions and Timing	Implementation Responsibility	Responsibility for Oversight of Compliance/ Verification	Agency Coordination	Comments
<p>agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC may mediate (§ 5097.94 of the PRC). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate CHRIS; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinternment document with the county in which the property is located (AB 2641). Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the Lead Agency, through consultation as appropriate, determines that the treatment measures have been completed to its satisfaction.</p>					
Geology and Soils					
<p>GEO-1: Discovery of Unknown Paleontological Resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If any paleontological resources (i.e., fossils) are found during Project construction, construction shall be halted immediately in the subject area and the area shall be isolated using orange or yellow fencing until CAL FIRE is notified and the area is cleared for future work. A qualified paleontologist shall be retained 	<p>Action:</p> <p>Implement operator training.</p> <p>Suspend work in the area of discovery.</p> <p>Notify CAL FIRE, DGS, and Qualified Paleontologist in the event of a discovery.</p>	<p>Project Paleontologist, Construction Manager</p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p>	<p>CAL FIRE, DGS</p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p>		

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<p>to evaluate the find and recommend appropriate treatment of the inadvertently discovered paleontological resources. In addition, in the event of an inadvertent find, sediment samples should be collected and processed to determine the small fossil potential on the Project Site. If CAL FIRE resumes work in a location where paleontological remains have been discovered and cleared, CAL FIRE will have a paleontologist onsite to observe any continuing excavation to confirm that no additional paleontological resources are in the area. Any fossil materials uncovered during mitigation activities should be deposited in an accredited and permanent scientific institution for the benefit of current and future generations.</p>	<p>Implement appropriate treatment of found materials.</p> <p>Timing: Ongoing and as needed during construction activities.</p>	<p>Date</p>	<p>Date</p>		
Tribal Cultural Resources					
<p>TCR-1: Implement Measures to Protect Unanticipated Tribal Cultural Resources Discoveries. If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within 100 feet of the discovery. The construction foreman will notify DGS and CAL FIRE, which shall</p>	<p>Action: Tribal construction monitoring.</p> <p>Timing: Provide ground-disturbing activities schedule to tribal</p>	<p>Project Archeologist, Tribal Monitor</p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p>	<p>CAL FIRE, DGS</p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p>		

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<p>notify culturally affiliated tribe(s) and a qualified professional archaeologist. The responding tribe(s) will be afforded a reasonable opportunity to visit the discovery location to determine whether or not it is a tribal cultural resource. The following actions shall apply, depending on the nature of the find:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the culturally affiliated tribe(s) determines that the find does not represent a tribal cultural resource, and the qualified professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a potential historical resource, and CAL FIRE concurs, then work may resume immediately, and no further action is required. • If the culturally affiliated or consulting tribe(s) determines that the find does represent a tribal cultural resource, as defined in PRC Section 21074(a) through (c) of the CEQA Guidelines, DGS and CAL FIRE shall consult with the tribe on appropriate treatment measures. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until DGS and CAL FIRE, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction. 	<p>monitor at least seven days prior to activity.</p>	<p>Initials</p>	<p>Date</p>		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, the construction supervisor shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance (Assembly Bill [AB] 2641) and shall immediately notify DGS, CAL FIRE, and the El Dorado County Coroner (per § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of § 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, § 5097.98 of the California PRC, and AB 2641 will be implemented. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner will notify the NAHC within 24 hours. The NAHC will designate a Native American MLD for the discovery (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC can mediate (§ 5097.94 of the PRC). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information 					

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Center; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinternment document with El Dorado County (AB 2641). Work may not resume within the no-work radius until DGS and/or CAL FIRE, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.					

To be signed when all mitigation measures have been completed:

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Signature

Printed Name

Date

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LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Notice of Intent

Attachment B – Proof of Publication

Attachment C – CDFW Filing Fee Receipt

Attachment D – Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the CAL FIRE
Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project

ATTACHMENT A

Notice of Intent

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

DATE: March 21, 2022

TO: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

SUBJECT: **CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project — EL DORADO COUNTY**

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency for the proposed CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project (Proposed Project). CAL FIRE has directed the preparation of an Initial Study (IS) Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) in compliance with CEQA. A Notice of Intent (NOI) was circulated in the Mountain Democrat on March 9, 2022, and indicated the Draft IS/MND review period would start on the same day. However, the Draft IS/MND was not submitted to the State Clearinghouse on March 9. The NOI will be reposted in the Mountain Democrat on March 21, and the Draft IS/MND public review period will be March 21, 2022 – April 20, 2022.

Project Location: The Project site is located on 80 acres of state-owned property, at 5540 Longview Lane in Georgetown, California. The Camp is located approximately 15 miles north of Placerville and 20 miles east of Auburn. The Project site consists of forested mountain terrain with graded areas scattered throughout the facility and is currently being used to house an inmate population for emergency incidents, such as fires, floods, and earthquakes.

Project Description: The proposed Project includes the replacement/upgrade of the existing Conservation Camp and associated facilities/structures. New facilities to be constructed would include an administration building, 136-bed inmate dorm building, inmate recreation building, inmate hobby building, 6-bed California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)/CAL FIRE barracks building, inmate kitchen and mess hall, multipurpose facility, inmate staging area (with restroom and showers), warehouse, carpentry shop, auto welding shop, vehicle storage building, sawmill shed, sawmill building, planer/assembly building (including dry kilns), pole barn, generator/pump/storage building, covered vehicle rack, and vehicle wash recycling. The Proposed Project would be constructed on property currently controlled by CAL FIRE and an expansion area that is currently part of the camp property.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts: Potentially significant impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, and tribal cultural resources were identified in the IS. All impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level with the implementation of identified mitigation measures.

Hazardous Waste Sites: Pursuant to Section 15087(c)(6) of the Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act, CAL FIRE acknowledges the non-existence of hazardous waste sites within the Project area reviewed by this Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).

IS/MND Document Review and Availability: The public review and comment period for the Draft IS/MND will extend for 30 days, **starting March 21, 2022 and ending April 20, 2022**. The Draft IS/MND can be viewed and/or downloaded at the following websites:

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<https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/resource-management/resource-protection-improvement/environmental-protection-program/public-notices/>

or

<https://www.dgs.ca.gov/RES/RESOURCES/Page-Content/Real-Estate-Services-Division-Resources-List-Folder/Information-and-Resources-for-CEQA>

Comments/Questions: Comments and/or questions regarding the IS/MND may be directed to:
Dakota Smith, Senior Environmental Planner
California Department of General Services
RES/PMDB Environmental Services, MS 509
707 3rd Street, 4th Floor
West Sacramento, California 95605

or via email (preferred):

dakota.smith@dgs.ca.gov

ATTACHMENT B

Proof of Publication

Mountain Democrat

PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(2015.5 C.C.P.)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
County of El Dorado

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I'm over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am principal clerk of the printer at the Mountain Democrat, 2889 Ray Lawyer Drive, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, in the City of Placerville, County of El Dorado, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court to the County of El Dorado, State of California, under the date of March 7, 1952, Case Number 7258; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type no smaller than non-pareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

3/21

ALL IN THE YEAR 2022

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at Placerville, California, this 21st day of MARCH, 2022

Allison Rains

Signature

Proof of Publication of NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

DATE: March 21, 2022

TO: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

SUBJECT: **CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project – El Dorado COUNTY**

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency for the proposed CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project (Proposed Project). CAL FIRE has directed the preparation of an Initial Study (IS) Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) in compliance with CEQA. A Notice of Intent (NOI) was circulated in the Mountain Democrat on March 9, 2022, and indicated the Draft IS/MND review period would start on the same day. However, the Draft IS/MND was not submitted to the State Clearinghouse on March 9. The NOI will be reposted in the Mountain Democrat on March 21, and the Draft IS/MND public review period will be March 21, 2022 – April 20, 2022.

Project Location: The Project site is located on 80 acres of state-owned property, at 5540 Longview Lane in Georgetown, California. The Camp is located approximately 15 miles north of Placerville and 20 miles east of Auburn. The Project site consists of forested mountain terrain with graded areas scattered throughout the facility and is currently being used to house an inmate population for emergency incidents, such as fires, floods, and earthquakes.

Project Description: The proposed Project includes the replacement/upgrade of the existing Conservation Camp and associated facilities/structures. New facilities to be constructed would include an administration building, 136-bed inmate dorm building, inmate recreation building, inmate hobby building, 6-bed California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)/CAL FIRE barracks building, inmate kitchen and mess hall, multipurpose facility, inmate staging area (with restroom and showers), warehouse,

carpentry shop, auto welding shop, vehicle storage building, sawmill shed, sawmill building, planer/assembly building (including dry kilns), pole barn, generator/pump/storage building, covered vehicle rack, and vehicle wash recycling. The Proposed Project would be constructed on property currently controlled by CAL FIRE and an expansion area that is currently part of the camp property.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts: Potentially significant impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, and tribal cultural resources were identified in the IS. All impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level with the implementation of identified mitigation measures.

Hazardous Waste Sites: Pursuant to Section 15087(c)(6) of the Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act, CAL FIRE acknowledges the non-existence of hazardous waste sites within the Project area reviewed by this Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).

IS/MND Document Review and Availability: The public review and comment period for the Draft IS/MND will extend for 30 days, starting March 21, 2022 and ending April 20, 2022. The Draft IS/MND can be viewed and/or downloaded at the following websites:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/resource-management/resource-protection-improvement/environmental-protection-program/public-notice/>

or <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/RESD/Resources/Page-Content/Real-Estate-Services-Division-Resources-List-Folder/Information-and-Resources-for-CEQA>

Comments/Questions: Comments and/or questions regarding the IS/MND may be directed to:

Dakota Smith, Senior Environmental Planner
California Department of General Services

RESD-PMDB Environmental Services, MS 509

707 3rd Street, 4th Floor
West Sacramento, California 95605
or via email (preferred):

dakota.smith@dgs.ca.gov

3/21

10167

ATTACHMENT C

CDFW Filing Fee Receipt

ATTACHMENT D

Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project

DRAFT

**Initial Study and
Mitigated Negative
Declaration**

for the

**Growlersburg Conservation
Camp Replacement Project**

March 2022

Lead Agency:



**California Department of Forestry and
Fire Protection
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95814**



ECORP Consulting, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

DRAFT

**Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project**

March 2022

Lead Agency:



**California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95814**

Prepared for:



**State of California Department of General Services
Real Estate Services Division
707 Third Street, Fourth Floor
West Sacramento, California 95605**

Prepared by:



ECORP Consulting, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

**2525 Warren Drive
Rocklin, California 95677**

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Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project

DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION CAL FIRE GROWLERSBURG CONSERVATION CAMP REPLACEMENT PROJECT

- Lead Agency:** State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- Project Proponent:** State of California Department of General Services, Real Estate Services Division
- Project Location:** The Project site is located in El Dorado County at 5540 Longview Lane, Georgetown in El Dorado County, California.
- Project Description:** The Proposed Project includes the replacement/upgrade of the existing Conservation Camp and associated facilities/structures. New facilities to be constructed would include an administration building, 136-bed inmate Dorm building, inmate recreation building, inmate hobby building, 6-bed California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)/CAL FIRE barracks building, inmate kitchen and mess hall, multipurpose facility, inmate staging area (with restroom and showers), warehouse, carpentry shop, auto welding shop, vehicle storage building, sawmill shed, sawmill building, planer/assembly building (including dry kilns), pole barn, generate/pump/storage/building, covered vehicle rack, and vehicle wash recycling. The Proposed Project would be constructed on property currently controlled by CAL FIRE and an expansion area that is currently part of the camp property.
- Public Review Period:** **March 9, 2022– April 8, 2022**

Mitigation Measures Incorporated into the Project to Avoid Significant Effects:

Biological Resources

PLANT-1: Floristic Plant Surveys. Perform floristic plant surveys where Project implementation will impact California black oak woodlands or mixed conifer forest and woodland communities according to USFWS, CDFW, and CNPS protocols prior to construction. A qualified biologist should conduct the surveys and time them according to the appropriate phenological stage for identifying target species. Known reference populations should be visited and/or local herbaria records should be reviewed, if available, prior to surveys to confirm the phenological stage of the target species. If no special-status plants are found within the Project impact areas, no further measures pertaining to special-status plants are necessary.

PLANT-2: Special-Status Plants. If special-status plants are identified within 25-feet of the Project impact area, implement the following measures:

Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project

- If avoidance of special-status plants is feasible, establish and clearly demarcate avoidance zones for special-status plant occurrences prior to construction. Avoidance zones should include the extent of the special-status plants, plus a 25-foot buffer, unless otherwise determined by a qualified biologist, and should be maintained until the completion of construction. A qualified biologist/biological monitor should be present if work must occur within the avoidance buffer to ensure special-status plants are not impacted by the work.
- If avoidance of special-status plants is not feasible, mitigate for significant impacts to special-status plants. Mitigation measures shall be developed in consultation with CDFW. Mitigation measures may include permanent preservation of onsite or offsite habitat for special-status plants and/or translocation of plants or seeds from impacted areas to unaffected habitats.

BIRD-1: Pre- Construction Nesting Bird Surveys. If construction is to occur during the nesting season (generally February 1 - August 31), conduct a pre-construction nesting bird survey of all suitable nesting habitat within 14 days of the commencement of construction. The survey shall be conducted within a 500-foot radius of Project impact limits for raptors and within a 100-foot radius for other nesting birds. If any active nests are observed, these nests shall be designated a sensitive area and protected by an avoidance buffer established by a qualified biologist in coordination with CDFW until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or parental care for survival. Pre-construction nesting surveys are not required for construction activity outside the nesting season.

BAT-1: Pre- Construction Bat Surveys. Within 14 days prior to Project activities that may impact bat roosting habitat (e.g., removal of manmade structures or trees), a qualified biologist will survey for all suitable roosting habitat within the Project impact limits. If suitable roosting habitat is not identified, no further measures are necessary. If suitable roosting habitat is identified, a qualified biologist will conduct an evening bat emergence survey that may include acoustic monitoring to determine whether or not bats are present. If roosting bats are determined to be present within the Project impact limits, consultation with CDFW prior to initiation of construction activities and/or preparation of a Bat Management Plan outlining avoidance and minimization measures specific to the roost(s) potentially affected may be required.

OAK-1: Mitigate through Mother Lode Land Trust. The proposed project will pay the Mother Lode Land Trust (nonprofit organization) a total of \$89,600 for the purchase of property containing Oak Woodland for permanent conservation and stewardship.

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CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project

Cultural Resources

CUL-1: Unanticipated Cultural Resources Discoveries. Implement Measures to Protect Unanticipated Discoveries of Cultural Resources or Human Remains.

- If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeologist, shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find, and shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment. The following notifications shall apply, depending on the nature of the find:
 - If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately, and no agency notifications are required.
 - If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does represent a cultural resource from any time period or cultural affiliation, he or she shall immediately notify CAL FIRE. The agency shall consult on a finding of eligibility and implement appropriate treatment measures, if the find is determined to be an Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the Lead Agency, through consultation as appropriate, determines that the site either: 1) is not an Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines; or 2) that the treatment measures have been completed to its satisfaction.
 - If the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, he or she shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance (AB 2641). The archaeologist shall notify the El Dorado County Coroner (per § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of § 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, § 5097.98 of the California PRC, and AB 2641 will be implemented. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which then will designate a Native American MLD for the project (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC may mediate (§ 5097.94 of the PRC). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate CHRIS; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinternment document with the county in which the property is located (AB 2641). Work may

Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project

not resume within the no-work radius until the Lead Agency, through consultation as appropriate, determines that the treatment measures have been completed to its satisfaction.

Geology and Soils

GEO-1: Discovery of Unknown Paleontological Resources.

- If any paleontological resources (i.e., fossils) are found during Project construction, construction shall be halted immediately in the subject area and the area shall be isolated using orange or yellow fencing until CAL FIRE is notified and the area is cleared for future work. A qualified paleontologist shall be retained to evaluate the find and recommend appropriate treatment of the inadvertently discovered paleontological resources. In addition, in the event of an inadvertent find, sediment samples should be collected and processed to determine the small fossil potential on the Project Site. If CAL FIRE resumes work in a location where paleontological remains have been discovered and cleared, CAL FIRE will have a paleontologist onsite to observe any continuing excavation to confirm that no additional paleontological resources are in the area. Any fossil materials uncovered during mitigation activities should be deposited in an accredited and permanent scientific institution for the benefit of current and future generations.

Tribal Cultural Resources

TCR-1: Implement Measures to Protect Unanticipated Tribal Cultural Resources Discoveries. If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within 100 feet of the discovery. The construction foreman will notify DGS and CAL FIRE, which shall notify culturally affiliated tribe(s) and a qualified professional archaeologist. The responding tribe(s) will be afforded a reasonable opportunity to visit the discovery location to determine whether or not it is a tribal cultural resource. The following actions shall apply, depending on the nature of the find:

- If the culturally affiliated tribe(s) determines that the find does not represent a tribal cultural resource, and the qualified professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a potential historical resource, and CAL FIRE concurs, then work may resume immediately, and no further action is required.
- If the culturally affiliated or consulting tribe(s) determines that the find does represent a tribal cultural resource, as defined in PRC Section 21074(a) though (c) of the CEQA Guidelines, DGS and CAL FIRE shall consult with the tribe on appropriate treatment measures. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until DGS and CAL FIRE, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.
- If the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, the construction supervisor shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to

Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project

protect the discovery from disturbance (Assembly Bill [AB] 2641) and shall immediately notify DGS, CAL FIRE, and the El Dorado County Coroner (per § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of § 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, § 5097.98 of the California PRC, and AB 2641 will be implemented. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner will notify the NAHC within 24 hours. The NAHC will designate a Native American MLD for the discovery (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC can mediate (§ 5097.94 of the PRC). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinternment document with El Dorado County (AB 2641). Work may not resume within the no-work radius until DGS and/or CAL FIRE, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.

Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project

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Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project

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April 2021

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Report, ECORP Consulting, Inc., April 16, 2020

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Definition
°F	Degrees Fahrenheit
AB	Assembly Bill
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ALUCP	Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan
APE	Area of Potential Effects
BCC	Bird of Conservation Concern
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CARB	California Air Resources Board

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Term	Definition
CBC	California Building Code
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDCR	California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDMG	California Division of Mines and Geology
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CH ₄	Methane
CHL	California Historical Landmark
CHRIS	California Historic Resources Information Center
City	City of Chino
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNEL	Community noise equivalent level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CO ₂ e	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
CTR	California Toxics Rule
CWA	Clean Water Act
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DGS	Department of General Services
DOC	Department of Conservation
DPM	diesel particulate matter
EDCAQMD	El Dorado County Air Quality Management District
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EMFAC	CARB Emission FACTor database
EMT	Emergency Medical Technician
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FMB	Foothill Metamorphic Belt
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GCC	Georgetown Climate Center
GDPUd	Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District
General Plan	Chino General Plan
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
gpm	Gallons per minute
hp	Horsepower
HVAC	heating, ventilation, and air condition
IS	Initial Study
kWh	Kilowatt-hour
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
L _{dn}	Community noise development level
L _{eq}	Equivalent noise level
MCAB	Mountain Counties Air Basin

Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project

Term	Definition
MLD	Most Likely Descendent
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zone
MTP	Metropolitan Transportation Plan
N ₂ O	Nitrous Oxide
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NEIC	North Eastern Information Center
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
NO ₂	Nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxides
NOA	Naturally Occurring Asbestos
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NO _x	Nitric oxide
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NTR	National Toxics Rule
O ₃	Ozone
OHP	Office of Historic Preservation
OPR	California Office of Planning and Research
ORMP	Oak Resources Management Plan
PG&E	Pacific Gas & Electric Company
PM	Particulate Matter
PM ₁₀	Coarse Particulate Matter
PM _{2.5}	Fine Particulate Matter
PPV	Peak Particle Velocity
PRC	Public Resources Code
Proposed Project	Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project
psi	Pounds Per Square Inch
PVC	Polyvinyl Chloride
ROG	Reactive Organic Gases
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCS	Sustainable Communities Strategy
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SMAQMD	Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
SMARA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act
SO ₂	Sulfur Dioxide
SR	State Route
SSC	Species Of Special Concern
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	Toxic Air Contaminant
TCR	Tribal Cultural Resources

Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project

Term	Definition
UAIC	United Auburn Indian Community of Auburn Rancheria
UCMP	University of California Museum of Paleontology
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
WBWG	Western Bat Working Group

Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Summary

Project Title:	CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement
Lead Agency Name and Address:	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) 1416 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814
Contact Person and Phone Number:	Dakota Smith – Senior Environmental Planner/Project Manager California Department of General Services RESD-PMDB Environmental Services, MS 509 707 3rd Street, 4th Floor West Sacramento, CA 95605 (916) 376-1700 dakota.smith@dgs.ca.gov And John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director Resource Protection and Improvement California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection P.O. Box 944246 Sacramento, CA 94244-2460 John.Melvin@fire.ca.gov
Project Location:	5540 Longview Lane Georgetown, CA 95634 El Dorado County
General Plan Designation:	Public Facilities
Zoning:	Residential Estate – 5 acre

Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project

1.2 Introduction

CAL FIRE is the Lead Agency for this Initial Study (IS), which has been prepared to identify and assess potential environmental impacts of the proposed CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project. This document has been prepared to satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code [PRC], Section 21000 et seq.) and State CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] 15000 et seq.). CEQA requires that all state and local government agencies consider the environmental consequences of projects over which they have discretionary authority before acting on those projects. A CEQA IS is generally used to determine which CEQA document is appropriate for a project (Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration [MND], or Environmental Impact Report [EIR]).

In accordance with CEQA, this IS/MND will be circulated for a 30-day public review and comment period. Written comments on the Draft IS/MND should be submitted to:

Mr. Dakota Smith, Senior Environmental Planner
California Department of General Services, Real Estate Service Division
707 Third Street, 4th Floor
West Sacramento, California 95605
dakota.smith@dgs.ca.gov

Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Background and Objectives

CAL FIRE proposes to upgrade the existing 80-acre Growlersburg Conservation Camp (Camp) located at 5540 Longview Lane in Georgetown, California. The Facility was built in 1967 and was designed as a three-crew camp. An addition was made to the inmate dorm and the bathroom/showers during the 1980s, and the Camp count was increased from 80 to 120 inmates. Currently the camp has about 130 inmates, which is 10% over the designed population. The facility is an integral part of the strategic resources necessary for conducting the emergency mission of CAL FIRE. Camp crews are used in El Dorado, Amador, Sacramento, and Placer Counties. Crews are utilized on emergency incidents, such as fires, floods and earthquakes. They also perform fire prevention and public service projects in both Amador and El Dorado Counties. Growlersburg is the only conservation camp in El Dorado County. The crews respond to emergencies and perform public service projects for an area covering approximately 1,000 square miles. Camp crews frequently are dispatched as secondary resources or provide cover crews for a multitude of incidents in the Sierra-South Regions, especially in adjacent CAL FIRE units, including those in the Northern Regions. The Camp has been a vital part of the emergency services network since its inception and will continue to perform the same role.

The original buildings do not meet standards of either the current Seismic Safety Code or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations and are not able to be cost efficiently retrofitted to meet current requirements. In several Camp buildings, electrical wiring was inserted through conduit that was attached to the outside of the walls and not inside the walls; current building codes and regulations require wiring to be inside of the walls. Complete replacement or remodeling is required throughout the facility, including re-supporting and re-floating the floors, re-siding the buildings, repairing trusses and load bearing walls, and installation of additional restroom facilities. The utilities must be removed and re-installed to continue to operate. It is not possible for a person with a substantial disability to access most of the buildings without assistance. Ramps were installed to allow access to the administrative and visiting buildings; however, the only restroom at this facility that is wheelchair accessible is a portable outhouse located in the visiting picnic yard. Currently, the Camp does not have accessible doorways (interior and exterior) and hallways are not wide enough to meet current building code. CDCR indicates that inmates with disability will be utilized in the future at camps for in camp functions only.

When the Camp population was increased from 80 to 120 inmates, the dining room and kitchen were not increased in size. The undersized dining room created the need to schedule meals in two groups. When the Camp is used as an incident staging area meal times can be extended to several hours. Larger ovens, stoves, and cooking equipment were installed but do not fit under the existing range hoods, creating smoke and fire hazards. The Camp has been cited for violations on numerous occasions by the Fire Marshal and State Department of Health due to the cooking-area deficiencies. Mitigations, such as a fire watch, have been incorporated to address the violations. The kitchen dry and cold storage areas are also undersized.

The siding on many of the buildings has deteriorated so much that vertebrate and insect pest control has become a major challenge. Due to the age of the facility, maintenance and repair requirements have

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increased. Because of the lack of space, much of the storage is accommodated by a diverse mix of sheds, military surplus truck bodies, and communication units that have been converted to storage. Many of the buildings have leaking roofs. Re-roofing all buildings is beyond the repair budget.

Utilities were installed at various times and often in a piecemeal fashion. Much of the protective conduit in which the wires for phones lines, the public address system, and some electrical wires were installed has deteriorated to the point that groundwater has seeped into the conduit and compromised the wiring. The phones and the public address system in the outlying buildings frequently do not work. Varying intensities of propane odors can be detected around many of the buildings. Repairing water pipes is a perennial and nearly constant task. The heat, air conditioning and ventilation systems have aged so much that they are non-operational in some buildings. The cost of repair or replacement exceeds repair budgets. Inmate dorms have single pane windows and old doors that don't always seal from the weather.

Bathrooms and showers are outdated and not large enough for the current population. The fire alarms in the dorms are outdated and regularly sound false alarms. There are no fire suppression systems. The captain's barracks has similar problems, with the added lack of male/female separate restrooms or exercise facilities.

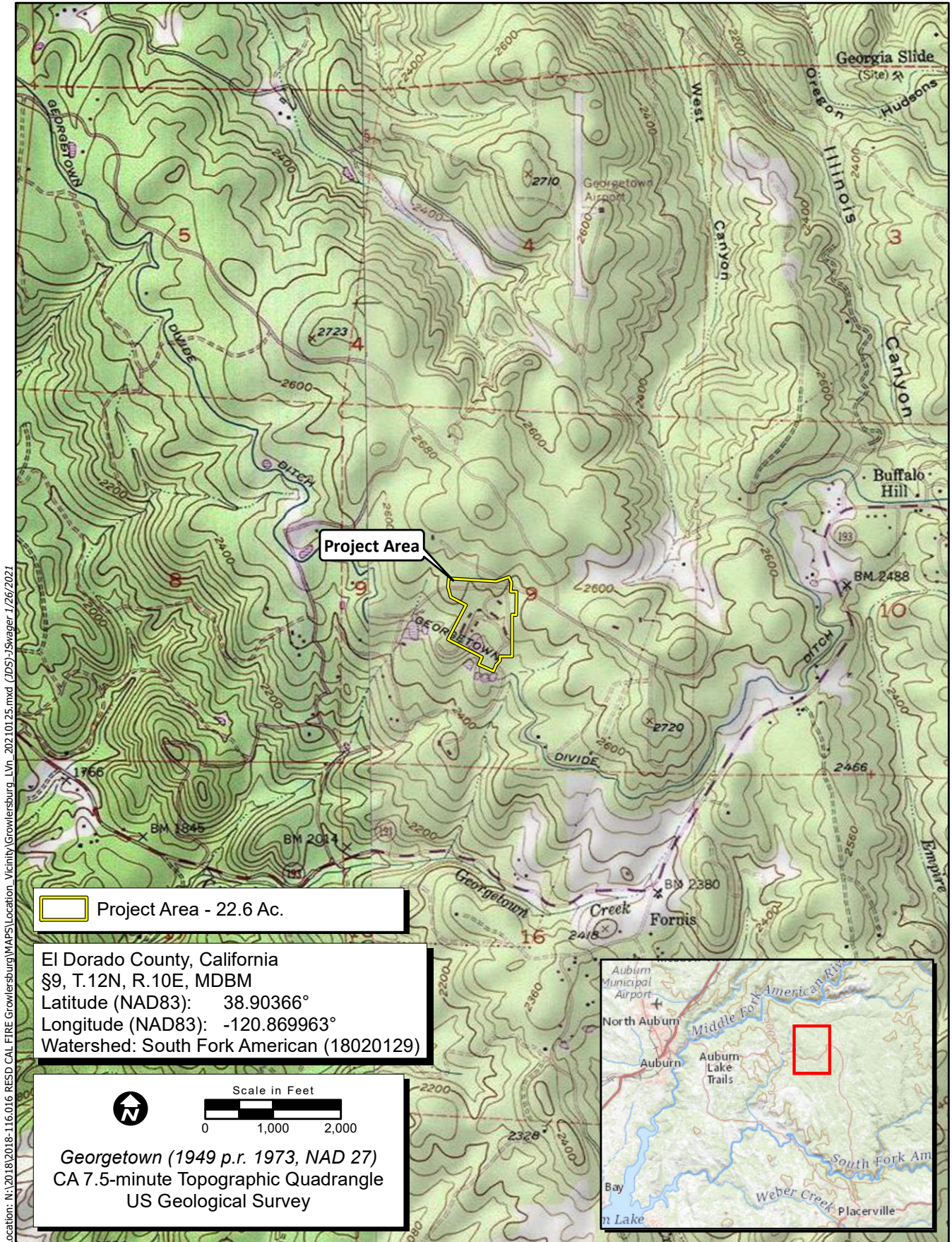
There were several swampy areas within the area prior to initial Camp construction. These areas were drained; however, wet areas reappeared under Camp roads which led to road surface deterioration. Out-sloped roads have been undermined by years of uncontrolled run off. The road system has been patched numerous times and now needs to be realigned and curbing added for proper drainage.

Replacing the Camp facilities and infrastructure is the preferred alternative. It will bring the facilities up to the current building, Health and Safety Codes and ADA regulations. It will increase the size of the facility to accommodate the current population. In doing so, it will significantly reduce repair costs and improve the ability to provide a safe and healthy working environment from which to continue to meet CAL FIRE's mission. In addition to bringing the facility up to current standards and codes, this alternative will modernize the Camp and increase operational efficiencies.

2.2 Project Characteristics

2.2.1 Site Location and Setting

The Camp is located on 80 acres of state-owned property, at 5540 Longview Lane in Georgetown, California. (Figure 2-1). The Camp is located approximately 15 miles north of Placerville and 20 miles east of Auburn. The Project Site consists of forested mountain terrain with graded areas scattered throughout the facility and is currently being used to house an inmate population for emergency incidents, such as fires, floods, and earthquakes.



Location: N:\2018\2018-116.016 RESD CAL FIRE Growlersburg\MAPS\Location_Vicinity\Growlersburg_L\In_20210125.mxd (JDS)\Svager_1/26/2021

Map Date: 1/26/2021
Sources: ESRI, USGS, WCE

Figure 2-1. Project Location and Vicinity

2018-116.016 RESD CAL FIRE Growlersburg



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The Project Site is generally bound by Longview Lane to the north with single-family residences beyond; an access road to some wastewater retention ponds (located south of and abutting the Project Area) traversing adjacent to and east of the Project Site with a single-family residence and Reservoir Road beyond; open space wooded forest land to the west with a scattering of single-family residences and various unpaved mountain roads beyond; and a wastewater retention pond to the south with a single-family residence and Longview Lane which for the most part encircles the Project vicinity from Reservoir Road north of the site, meandering through the scattering of single-family residences surrounding the Project site, and returning back to Reservoir Road beyond. The Camp currently consists of the following buildings. (see Figures 2-2 a and b and 2-3)

2.2.1.1 Administration Building

The administration building is located in the northwest portion of the Project Site adjacent to parking lot 5. This building will be demolished and rebuilt as a part of the Project.

2.2.1.2 Garages

The Camp currently has three garages (one 3-bay and two 4-bay). The 3-bay garage is located in the upper northeastern corner of the property and the other two garages are located in the middle of the Project Site. The existing garages will not be impacted by the Proposed Project.

2.2.1.3 Officer's Barracks

The officer barracks are currently located south of the visitors parking lot in the north part of the Project Site. This building will be demolished and replaced as a part of the Project.

2.2.1.4 Conference Building

The conference building is currently located in the northern part of the Project Site, north of the administration building and west of parking lot 5. This building will be demolished as a part of the Project. Conference rooms will be included in the design of the new administration building.

2.2.1.5 Mess Hall/Kitchen

The existing mess hall and kitchen are located in the middle western portion of the Camp and will be demolished and relocated as a part of the Project.

2.2.1.6 Inmates Barracks

The inmate barracks are located in the southeastern portion of the Project Site, just south of the existing mess hall/kitchen and east of the sports court. The barracks was built to accommodate up to 120 inmates but is currently housing 130 inmates. This building will be demolished and relocated as a part of the Project.



View of existing utility buildings east of inmate barracks.



View of existing inmate barracks from mess hall/kitchen.



View of interior open space from central driveway. Inmate garden in the background will be retained.



Visitation area near entrance to be retained.



View of existing administration building, looking south from entrance driveway.



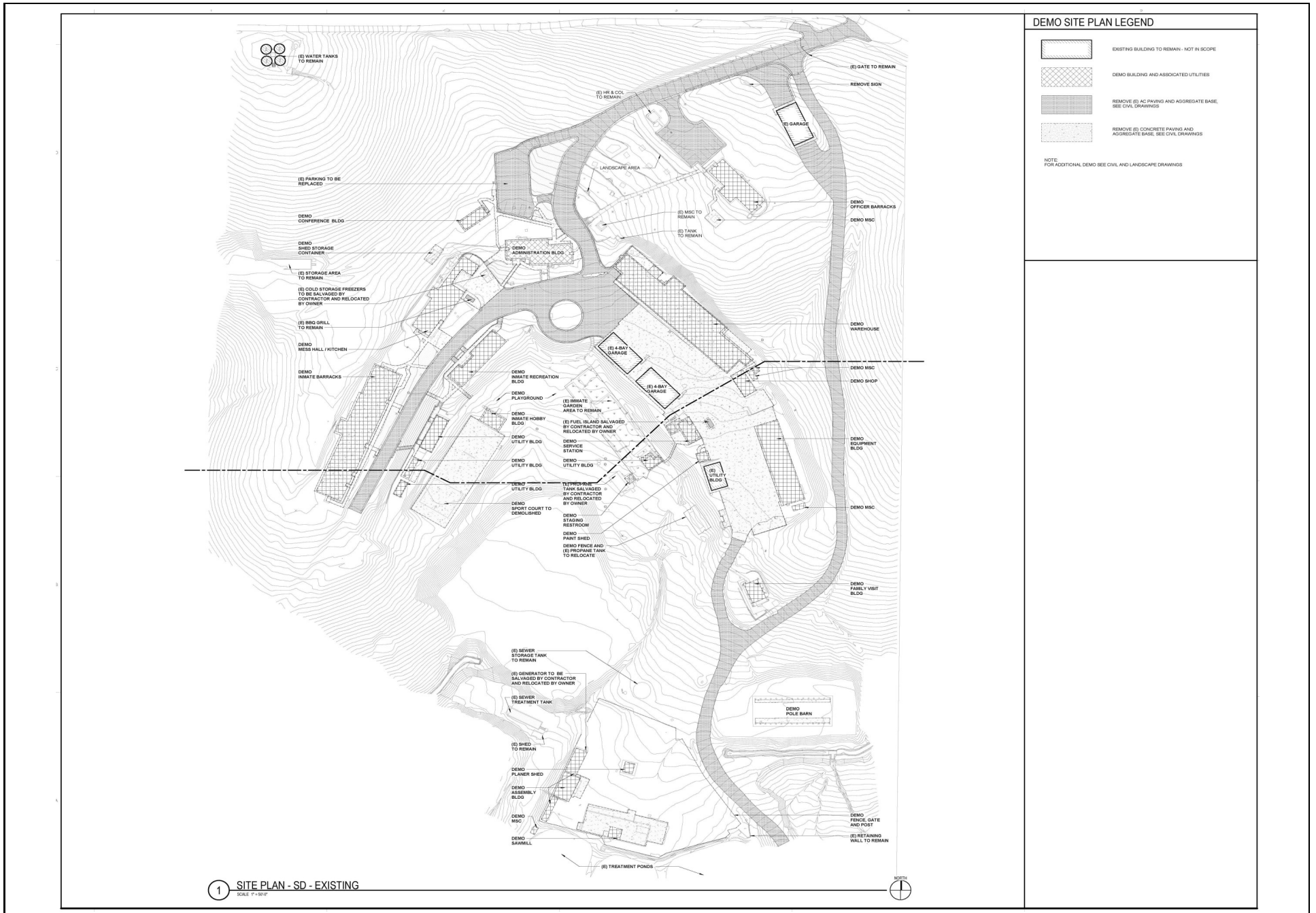
From left to right, existing inmate recreation building, mess hall/kitchen, and administration building.



View of existing sawmill and planer shed looking south from access road.



View of existing sewer storage tank in foreground and sewer treatment tank in the background. Both to be retained.



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2.2.1.7 Inmate Recreation Building

The inmate recreation building is located in the southeastern portion of the Project Site, just east of the existing mess hall/kitchen and north of the sports court. This building will be demolished and relocated as a part of the Project.

2.2.1.8 Hobby Building

The hobby building is adjacent to the sports court and is located in the southeastern portion of the Project Site, just east of the existing mess hall/kitchen and north of the sports court. This building will be demolished and relocated as a part of the Project.

2.2.1.9 Utility Buildings

Three utility buildings are located in the southeastern portion of the Project Site, across from the barracks and south of the inmate recreation building, and one utility building is located in the southern portion of the Project Site, south of the inmate garden area. All four utility buildings will be demolished and relocated as a part of the Project.

2.2.1.10 Inmate Garden

The inmate garden contains a variety of plants. The inmate garden is solely cared for by the inmates. This feature will remain untouched by the Project.

2.2.1.11 Service Station

The service station is located on the southeastern side of the Project Site, just below the 4-bay garage. This building will be demolished and relocated as a part of the Project.

2.2.1.12 Staging Restroom and Paint Shed

Both the staging restroom and the paint shed are located on the southeastern portion of the Project Site near the inmate garden. Both structures will be demolished and replaced as a part of the Proposed Project.

2.2.1.13 Family Visit Building

The family visit building is located at the southeastern portion of the Project Site, north of the existing pole barn and will be demolished and replaced as a part of the Proposed Project.

2.2.1.14 Equipment Building

The equipment building is located at the eastern portion of the Project Site, south of the existing warehouse, shop, and stores facility equipment. This building will be demolished and replaced as a part of the Proposed Project.

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2.2.1.15 Shop Building

The Shop building is located in the eastern portion of the Project Site, south of the existing warehouse. This building will be demolished and replaced as a part of the Proposed Project.

2.2.1.16 Warehouse

The warehouse is located near the center of the Project Site, east of the existing administration building and south of the officer's barracks. This building will be demolished and replaced as a part of the Proposed Project.

2.2.1.17 Other Structures

The following structures at the southernmost end of the Project Site will be demolished and replaced as a part of the Proposed Project: Pole barn, generator, planer shed, assembly building and sawmill. The sewer storage tank, sewer treatment tank, shed, treatment ponds and retaining wall will all remain in existing condition and will not be improved as a part of the Proposed Project.

2.3 Project Characteristics

2.3.1 Project Statistics

The Proposed Project includes the replacement/upgrade of the existing Camp and associated facilities/structures (see Table 2-1 and Figure 2-4). New facilities to be constructed would include an administration building, 136-bed inmate dorm building, inmate recreation building, inmate hobby building, 6-bed CDCR/CAL FIRE barracks building, inmate kitchen and mess hall, multipurpose facility, inmate staging area (with restroom and showers), warehouse, carpentry shop, auto welding shop, vehicle storage building, sawmill shed, sawmill building, planer/assembly building (including dry kilns), pole barn, generator/pump/storage/building, covered vehicle rack, and vehicle wash recycling. The Proposed Project would be constructed on property currently controlled by CAL FIRE and an expansion area that is currently part of the Camp property. Construction will be phased so that existing buildings can continue to be used until it is necessary to demolish them.

Existing buildings to be demolished and replaced include the following (square footage of existing buildings is similar to the replacement buildings square footage):

Table 2-1. Proposed New or Replacement Facilities/Structures		
Proposed Replacement or New Structures	Square Feet	Replace or New
Building A – Administration/Multipurpose Building -The building is designed with two wings. One wing with offices for CAL FIRE staff and the other wing with offices for CDCR staff. The building includes a lobby, conference room, a multipurpose room, and a public restroom for visitors using the program and visitation building.	5,601	Replace
Building B - Inmate Recreation and Hobby Barn Building - This building is designed with pool room, TV rooms, hobby workshop, finish room, and an exercise room for the inmates. The building also includes a barber shop.	7,445	Replace

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Table 2-1. Proposed New or Replacement Facilities/Structures		
Proposed Replacement or New Structures	Square Feet	Replace or New
Building C – Mess Hall/Kitchen - This building is designed with a dining room, a kitchen, freezer, refrigerator, dry storage, and hot storage.	8,824	Replace
Building D - Inmate Barracks - The barracks are designed as a 136-bed dormitory. The building also has a laundry room, restroom areas and shower areas.	14,544	Replace
Building E – Sawmill Shed - This building is designed as an equipment storage room.	1,592	Replace
Building F – Sawmill and Planer Assembly Building – This building is designed for sawing and planning of lumber. The building includes an office, storage room, equipment room, materials handling room,, tools room and an assembly area.	4,756	Replace
Building G – Product Storage/Drying Building - This building is the designed as a storage and drying building. One side of the building is used for storing carpentry products, and the other side is used for drying wood products.	3,174	Replace
Building H – Carpentry Shop - This building is designed with an assembly room, hobby room, finish room, tools room and a storage room.	7,233	Replace
Building J1 – Fire Pump/Electrical Equipment Building - This building is designed with a pump house room on one side and an electrical equipment room on the other side.	732	New
Building J2 – Fuel Storage Shed - This building is designed for fuel storage.	106	New
Building K – Staging Restroom - This building is designed as a multi-use restroom. The building also includes two small all gender restrooms and a laundry room.	1,280	New
Building L – Auto Shop - This building is designed as a 4-bay car garage. The building also includes a welding shop, saw shop, part storage, break room, office and an all gender restroom.	7,445	New
Building M – Warehouse Building - This building is designed with two warehouse rooms, equipment room training room, office, office lockers and fire equipment room.	7,304	Replaced
Building N - Office Barracks - The new building is designed with two wings. Both wings have 6 bedrooms with two beds each wing. 4 bathrooms with one being accessible and one laundry room each wing. The building also includes a Living room, dining room and kitchen.	7,030	replaced
Building O – 3 Bay Garage/Wash Rack - This building is designed with three wash bays.	2,919	New
Building P – Program/Visitation Building - This building is designed for inmate program and visitation. Note restroom needs for this building is accommodated in the administration/Multipurpose building. Which is building A.	884	Replaced
Building Q – Mobile Kitchen Unit - This building is designed to store the Mobile Kitchen unit.	1,950	Replaced

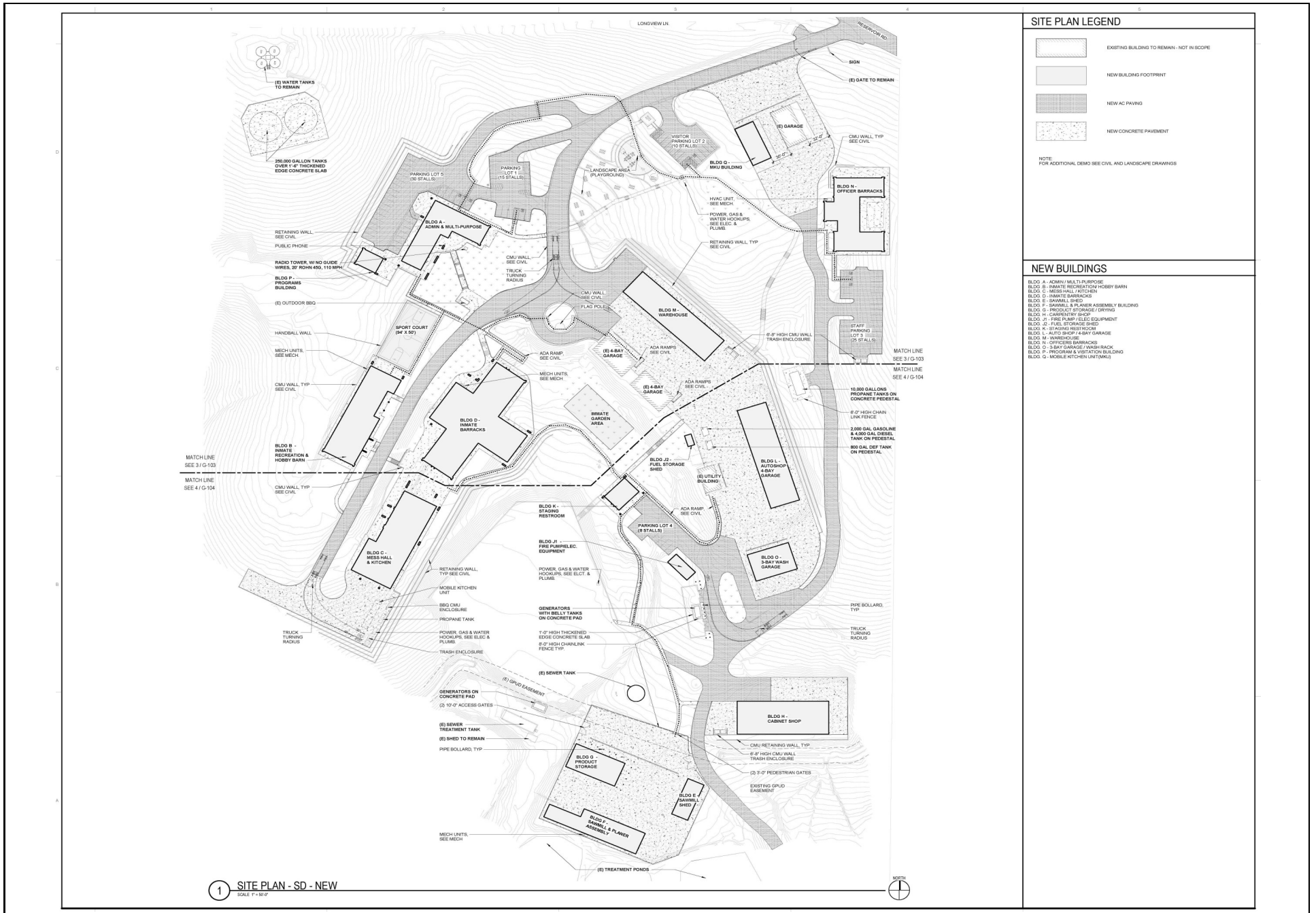


Figure 2-4. Site Plan

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2.3.1.1 Utilities

Domestic Water

Domestic water service is currently provided from an existing 4-inch line connected to the Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District (GDPUD) 6-inch water main located at the north end of the campus off Longview Lane. This existing water service is sufficient to service the campus improvements. All onsite domestic water piping will be replaced with new pipe to meet current health code requirements.

Fire Protection

The existing fire suppression system is currently fed by the existing domestic system. The Proposed Project includes construction of a new fire system that will be fed from the 6-inch main on Longview Lane. A hydrant flow test of the existing main line was completed on February 12, 2021 and yielded a flow rate of 544 gallons per minute (gpm) at 20 pounds per square inch (psi) residual. The Project site requires a flow rate of 1625 gpm for a 3-hour duration. As GDPUD can provide 544 gpm, an additional 1081 gpm is required for three hours. This results in the need for an additional 194,580 gallons of storage. It is recommended that, at a minimum, two (2) 100,000-gallon tanks be installed. The Project will be installing two 250,000 tanks as a part of the proposed project. These tanks will be constructed in the northwest corner of the Project Site adjacent to the existing domestic supply water tanks.

A new onsite fire system will be installed to service the campus. This includes new hydrants and fire department connections to supply the fire sprinklers that are required in each building. The new 250,000-gallon custom designed water tanks will supply water to the fire system.

Sanitary Sewer

Currently, the site is served by a large septic tank located in the field/staging area near the center of the site. Wastewater is conveyed from the septic tank to the sewer treatment tank to the west of the sawmill area. Following treatment, wastewater is released to the existing treatment ponds. There also exists a tank and pump north of the shop area to allow for storage in emergency situations.

It is proposed that all site piping be replaced with new polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe (SDR26 or SDR35). New piping will be placed throughout the campus to service the buildings. The existing septic tank, sewer treatment tank and treatment ponds are proposed to remain as there are no apparent service issues.

Storm Drain

Project implementation will not result in a substantial increase in impervious surfaces on the site. A network of new storm drain piping will connect storm drain inlets and subdrains throughout the Project Area to collect anticipated runoff. Piped drainage will discharge at the south end of the project site where it will flow in a southwesterly direction through natural drainage channels before entering one of multiple existing culverts at the south end of Longview Lane in order to discharge under the road. Downstream of the culverts the runoff continues to flow off site through existing, natural drainage channels in a southerly direction.

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2.3.1.2 Other Site Improvements

Other site improvements will include the following items:

- Aboveground fuel vault
- New propane tank
- New radio tower, provided by owner.
- Grading and paving

All buildings will be designed to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver rating requirements; however, registration and certification will not be pursued.

2.4 Operations and Maintenance

Currently, the Growlersburg Conservation Camp is staffed by approximately 14 permanent CAL FIRE employees (1 Division Chief, 10 Fire Captains, 1 Office Tech, 1 Mechanic, 1 Wastewater Plant Operator) , 12 permanent CDCR employees (1 Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, 9 Officers) , and up to 130 inmates. At this time, no staffing changes are anticipated; however, during large fire incidents, the Camp has the capacity to accommodate six additional crews. During these events, the additional crews are housed in tents located in the grass field below the main structures. The Proposed Project does not intend to address accommodation of additional staff or inmates, but rather address the current undersized conditions of the above listed employees and inmates.

2.5 Project Timing

Project construction is anticipated to start in the off-fire season (spring 2023) and be completed within a year to a year and a half. Construction activities would start when Project funding has been fully secured and all construction contracts have been put in place.

2.6 Construction Details

According to CAL FIRE, Project construction will be continuous and not done in phases. The camp will be closed during construction and inmates will be moved to a different location during construction.

2.7 Regulatory Requirements, Permits, and Approvals

This IS provides the environmental information and analysis and primary CEQA documentation necessary for CAL FIRE to adequately consider the effects of the proposed construction and operation of the Project. CAL FIRE, as lead agency, has the approval authority and responsibility for considering the environmental effects of the Proposed Project.

The following approvals and regulatory permits would be required for implementation of the Proposed Project:

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Organization or Issue	Approval or Permit
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)	Construction General Permit (including the development and implementation of a Storm water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and best management practices (BMPs)
El Dorado County Certified Unified Program Agency	Permits associated with storage and use of diesel fuel and gasoline, oils and lubricants, and specialty fire suppression liquids, and tanks. Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan must be filed and be stamped by a registered civil engineer, since there would be more than 10,000 gallons of petroleum products stored onsite. Hazardous Materials Business Response Plan and Hazardous Waste Inventory
El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District	Air permit (for the generator), Authority to Construct Permit
State Fire Marshal; State Architect	Approval for Americans with Disabilities Act, structural review, and fire suppression and code compliance review.

*The Proposed Project would be located on State-owned property and would remain a State-owned and operated facility. As such, the property would not be within permitting jurisdiction of El Dorado County and permits for planning and building activities are not required.

2.8 Consultation with California Native American Tribe(s)

At the time CAL FIRE was ready to initiate CEQA review, it had received written requests to receive Project notices from one California Native American Tribe in the region. The United Auburn Indian Community of Auburn Rancheria (UAIC) identified itself as being traditionally and culturally affiliated with the lands subject to CAL FIRE jurisdiction for this Project. On April 28, 2021, DGS and CAL FIRE determined that it had a complete Project Description and was ready to begin review under CEQA. On the same day, CAL FIRE sent an initial notification letter to the tribe with Project information and an invitation to consult on the Project. CAL FIRE requested a response to the offer to consult within 30 days of the receipt of the letter. In accordance with Section 21080.3.1(d) of the PRC, a response to the offer to consult was requested by May 28, 2021.

United Auburn Indian Community

On May 11, 2021, Anna Starkey from UAIC emailed CALFIRE in response to the offer to consult and asked if UAIC could be provided the cultural and biological technical studies for the project area to help the tribe inform its decisions on suggested mitigation. On May 12, 2021, the requested reports were provided to UAIC. CALFIRE asked if the tribe was requesting formal consultation under AB52. No response was received. On May 27, 2021, CALFIRE followed up with a phone call and message to the tribe to ask if they were requesting formal consultation on the project. No response was received.

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2.8.1 Summary of Non-AB 52 Tribal Outreach

On April 28, 2021, CAL FIRE sent notification letters to tribes on a standing outreach list maintained by CAL FIRE. The letters were sent to the following tribes:

- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
- Wilton Rancheria
- Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
- Lone Band of Miwok Indians

Each letter was sent with project information and an invitation to comment on the Project. CAL FIRE requested responses to the offer to consult within 30 days of the receipt of the letter. No responses were received.

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3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED AND DETERMINATION

3.1 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, including at least one that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

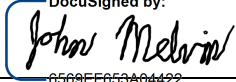
<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazards/Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy	<input type="checkbox"/> Paleontological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services	

Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I find that although the Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the Project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
I find that the Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I find that the Project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I find that although the Project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the Project, nothing further is required.	<input type="checkbox"/>

DocuSigned by:



3/14/2022

John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director
Resource Protection and Improvement
California Department of Forestry and Fire
Protection

Date

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4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Aesthetics

4.1.1 Environmental Setting

4.1.1.1 Regional Setting

Located within the east-central California between the Folsom Lake and California-Nevada State Line (south Lake Tahoe), El Dorado County's broad range of landscapes is characterized by rolling hills covered in annual grasslands and mountainous terrain; agriculture and rangelands; historic mining areas and structures; and a handful of lakes, rivers, and reservoirs, all of which contribute to the distinct visual and scenic resources found within the county (El Dorado County 2021).

Georgetown is the northeastern most town within the California Mother Lode. Situated within the northwestern portion of El Dorado County along the SR 193, the highway also passes through Fords Corner, Greenwood, and Georgetown before turning south to the town of Kelsey. SR 193 terminates at the northern city limits of the historic mining town of Placerville. Georgetown is located south of the rural community of Foresthill, East of Auburn, and north of Placerville. Georgetown is generally characterized by rural residential and forested lands with large pine and cedar trees. Georgetown is at an elevation of approximately 2,654 feet.

4.1.1.2 Visual Setting

The Project Area is made up of developed CDCR/CAL FIRE facilities and the surrounding undeveloped oak woodlands/conifer forest. The developed lands onsite include paved surfaces, roads, living quarters, buildings, landscaping, and a large mown ball field/grassy area. The surrounding lands are composed of oak woodland/conifer forest within private rural residential parcels.

4.1.1.3 State Scenic Highways

The California Scenic Highway Program protects and enhances the scenic beauty of California's highways and adjacent corridors. A highway can be designated as scenic based on how much natural beauty can be seen by users of the highway, the quality of the scenic landscape, and if development impacts the enjoyment of the view (California Department of Transportation [Caltrans] 2021). SR 193 is not a Caltrans-designated scenic highway.

4.1.2 Aesthetics (I) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No impact.

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The completed Project will look similar to the existing condition. The Project Site is not within a designated scenic area or located within a scenic vista. Therefore, site development would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, and no impact would occur.

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No impact.

The Project would not substantially damage scenic resources within a state scenic highway viewshed; there are no designated state scenic highways in the vicinity. No impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No impact.

The Proposed Project will be replacing existing facilities within a similar area/footprint. Currently, the site is being used as a conservation camp with associated facilities and the Project proposes to upgrade the 1967-built camp to accommodate existing inmate numbers and modern needs. The Project would not conflict with applicable zoning or scenic quality regulations as a state project on state-owned land. The new facility will look similar to the existing facility with the addition of some new structures. No impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

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Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the Project create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No impact.

The Proposed Project would increase the number of buildings on the Project site and add additional outside lighting. However, day and nighttime views would not be adversely affected. As stated above, the Project Area currently operates as a conservation camp. This function would remain the same after the Proposed Project is completed.

4.1.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

4.2.1 Environmental Setting

4.2.1.1 El Dorado County

According to the 2017 Censuses of Agriculture for El Dorado County, the county produced more than \$24 million in agricultural products in 2017, a 20 percent decrease since 2012 (El Dorado County 2017). Of this production, the top grossing sectors were grapes, apples, cultivated Christmas trees, forage (hay), and English walnuts. The top grossing for livestock were cattle, goats, chickens, and sheep. There are no agricultural lands adjacent to the Project site; however, a few parcels have grazing livestock and private crops.

El Dorado County has approximately one million acres of national forest land. The forest's vegetation consists of chaparral, conifer, fir, and subalpine trees; and elevations vary from 1,620 feet to 10,380 feet (El Dorado County 2021). The project site is located approximately 4 miles northwest of the El Dorado National forest.

4.2.2 Regulatory Setting

4.2.2.1 California Important Farmland Inventory System and Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

The California Department of Conservation (DOC) sponsors the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. Important farmland maps classify land into one of eight categories, which are defined as follows (DOC 2019):

- **Prime Farmland** – land that has the best combination of features for the production of agricultural crops.

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- **Farmland of Statewide Importance** – land other than Prime Farmland that has a good combination of physical and chemical features for the production of agricultural crops.
- **Unique Farmland** – land of lesser quality soils used for the production of the state’s leading agricultural cash crops.
- **Farmland of Local Importance** – land that is of importance to the local agricultural economy.
- **Grazing Land** – land with existing vegetation that is suitable for grazing.
- **Urban and Built-up Lands** – land occupied by structures with a density of at least one dwelling unit per 1.5 acres, or approximately six structures to a 10-acre parcel. This land is used for residential, industrial, commercial, institutional, public utility structures, and other developed purposes.
- **Land Committed to Nonagricultural Use** – vacant areas; existing lands that have a permanent commitment to development but have an existing land use of agricultural or grazing lands.
- **Other Lands** – land that does not meet the criteria of the remaining categories.

4.2.2.2 Williamson Act Contracts

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, commonly known as the Williamson Act, enables local governments to enter into agreements with private landowners to restrict parcels for agricultural or related open space use. In return, landowners receive property tax assessments that are based on farming and open space uses instead of full market value. The Open Space Subvention Act of 1971 has historically provided local governments an annual subvention (subsidy) of forgone property tax revenues from the state; however, these payments have been suspended since 2009 due to revenue shortfalls in recent years. (DOC 2016). El Dorado County has very little Williamson Act land and the Project Site and surrounding area has none.

4.2.3 Agriculture and Forestry Resources (II) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No impact.

The DOC manages the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, which identifies and maps significant farmland. Farmland is classified using a system of five categories, including Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Local Importance, and Grazing Land. The

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classification of farmland as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance is based on the suitability of soils for agricultural production, as determined by a soil survey conducted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS, DOC 2021). DOC manages an interactive website called the California Important Farmland Finder. This website program identifies the Project Site as urban and built-up land, and, therefore, not agriculturally important land [DOC2021]. The Project will, therefore, have no impact on designated farmlands. No mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No impact.

The site is zoned Public Facilities in the El Dorado County Zoning Code. This zoning district was not intended for agricultural uses. The DOC also maintains mapping for Williamson Act contracts by county. As shown on the map for El Dorado County, the site is not subject to a Williamson Act contract. [DOC 2010]. Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in no impact to Williamson Act contract lands or land zoned for agricultural uses. No mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in PRC section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by PRC section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No impact.

While the Project does contain conifer trees, the Proposed Project does not involve properties zoned for forest land, timberland or Timberland Production, and, therefore, would not conflict with existing zoning codes. No impact would occur, and no mitigation measures are required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No impact.

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The Proposed Project would be replacing existing facilities within the same area and would not convert forest land to non-forest use. There would be no impact, and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No Impact.

See discussion under item a), the Proposed Project would not result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest. No impact would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

4.2.4 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.3 Air Quality

This section is based on the analysis and recommendations presented in the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessment, prepared for the Proposed Project (ECORP 2021b, *Appendix B*).

4.3.1 Environmental Setting

Air quality in a region is determined by its topography, meteorology, and existing air pollutant sources. These factors are discussed below, together with the current regulatory structure that applies to the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB), in which the Project site is located, pursuant to the regulatory authority of the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (EDCAQMD). The EDCAQMD is responsible for establishing and enforcing local air quality rules and regulations that address the requirements of federal and state air quality laws.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) focus on the following criteria pollutants to determine air quality: ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀), fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), and lead. In El Dorado County, the majority of criteria pollutant emissions come from mobile sources.

Toxic Air Contaminants (TAC) are separated into categories of carcinogens and noncarcinogens. Carcinogens, such as diesel PM, are considered dangerous at any level of exposure. Noncarcinogens, however, have a minimum threshold for dangerous exposure. Common sources of TAC include, but are not limited to: gas stations, dry cleaners, diesel generators, ships, trains, construction equipment, and motor vehicles.

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4.3.1.1 Ambient Air Quality

Ambient air quality in western El Dorado County can be inferred from ambient air quality measurements conducted at nearby air quality monitoring stations. CARB maintains over 60 monitoring stations throughout California. The Cool-Highway 193 (1400 American River Trail in the town of Cool, CA 95614) seasonal air quality monitoring station, located approximately 7 miles west of the Project Site, is the closest station and monitors ambient concentrations of O₃. Concentrations of PM₁₀ were obtained from the Roseville-North Sunrise Boulevard monitoring station (151 North Sunrise Avenue, Roseville, California 95661) located approximately 23.75 miles southwest of the Project Site. The Colfax-City Hall (33 South Main Street Colfax, CA 95713) monitoring station, located 14.15 miles north of the Project Site, monitors ambient concentrations of PM_{2.5}. Ambient emission concentrations will vary due to localized variations in emission sources and climate and should be considered “generally” representative of ambient concentrations within the Project Area. Table 4-1 summarizes the published data concerning O₃, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} since 2017 from the Cool-Highway 193, Roseville-N Sunrise Boulevard, and Colfax-City Hall monitoring stations for each year that the monitoring data are provided.

Table 4.1. Summary of Ambient Air Quality Data			
Pollutant Standards	2017	2018	2019
Ozone (Cool-Highway 193 Air Quality Monitoring Station)			
Max 1-hour concentration (ppm)	0.11	0.12	0.09
Max 8-hour concentration (ppm) (state/federal)	0.09 / 0.08	0.11 / 0.11	0.08 / 0.08
Number of days above state 1-hr standard	4	13	0
Number of days above state/federal 8-hour standard	28 / 28	26 / 26	4 / 3
Coarse Particulate Matter (Roseville-N Sunrise Boulevard Air Quality Monitoring Station)			
Max 24-hour concentration (µg/m ³) (state/federal)	65.80 / 66.00	211.30 / 202.2	63.10 / 61.3
Number of days above state/federal standard	* / 0	* / 2	2 / *
Fine Particulate Matter (Colfax-City Hall Air Quality Monitoring Station)			
Max 24-hour concentration (µg/m ³) (state/federal)	48.80 / *	87.10 / *	20.60 / *
Number of days above federal standard	*	*	*

Source: CARB 2020a

µg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter; ppm = parts per million

* = insufficient data available

The USEPA and CARB designate air basins or portions of air basins and counties as being in “attainment” or “nonattainment” for each of the criteria pollutants. Areas that do not meet the standards are classified as nonattainment areas. The National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) (other than O₃, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} and those based on annual averages or arithmetic mean) are not to be exceeded more than once per year. The NAAQS for O₃, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} are based on statistical calculations over one- to three-year periods, depending on the pollutant. The California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) are not to be

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exceeded during a three-year period. The attainment status for the El Dorado County portion of the MCAB is included in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2. Attainment Status for the El Dorado County Portion of the Mountain Counties Air Basin		
Pollutant	State Designation	Federal Designation
O ₃	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
PM ₁₀	Nonattainment	Unclassified
PM _{2.5}	Unclassified	Nonattainment
CO	Unclassified	Unclassified/Attainment
NO ₂	Attainment	Unclassified/Attainment
SO ₂	Attainment	Unclassified/Attainment

Source: CARB 2019

The determination of whether an area meets the state and federal standards is based on air quality monitoring data. Some areas are unclassified, which means there is insufficient monitoring data for determining attainment or nonattainment. Unclassified areas are typically treated as being in attainment. Because the attainment/nonattainment designation is pollutant-specific, an area may be classified as nonattainment for one pollutant and attainment for another. Similarly, because the state and federal standards differ, an area could be classified as attainment for the federal standards of a pollutant and as nonattainment for the state standards of the same pollutant. The region is designated as a nonattainment area for federal O₃ and PM_{2.5} standards and is also a nonattainment area for the state standards for O₃ and PM₁₀ standards (CARB 2019).

4.3.2 Regulatory Setting

4.3.2.1 El Dorado County Air Quality Management District

In addition to the aforementioned regional Air Quality Attainment Plans prepared by the air districts in the greater Sacramento region, the EDCAQMD has adopted rules and regulations as a means of implementing the air quality plans for the county. Additionally, EDCAQMD has also prepared the *Guide to Air Quality Assessment*, which provides quantitative emission thresholds and established protocols for the analysis of air quality impacts from projects and plans. The *Guide to Air Quality Assessment* outlines quantitative and qualitative significance criteria, methodologies for the estimation of construction and operational emissions, and mitigation measures to reduce significant impacts (EDCAQMD 2002).

The EDCAQMD rules applicable to the Proposed Project include the following:

Rule 205 – Nuisance. This rule prohibits the discharge from any source such quantities of air contaminants or other material which cause injury, detriment, nuisance or annoyance to any considerable number of persons, or to the public, or which endanger the comfort, repose, health or safety

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of any such persons, or the public, or which cause to have a natural tendency to cause injury or damage to business or property.

Rule 215 – Architectural Coatings. This rule requires manufacturers, distributors, and users of architectural and industrial maintenance coatings to reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from the use of these coatings by placing limits on the VOC content of various coating categories.

Rule 223 – Fugitive Dust. This rule governs the amount of PM entrained in the ambient air as a result of anthropogenic (man-made) fugitive dust sources by requiring actions to prevent, reduce, or mitigate fugitive dust emissions. It applies to any construction or construction-related activities, including but not limited to, land clearing, grubbing, scraping, travel on the site, and travel on access roads.

Rule 223-1 – Fugitive Dust – Construction. This rule requires a Fugitive Dust Control Plan be submitted to the Air Pollution Control Officer prior to the start of any construction activity for which a grading permit was issued by the county.

Rule 223-2 – Fugitive Dust – Asbestos Hazard Mitigation. This rule reduces the amount of asbestos PM that may be released as a result of construction-related activities through the use of required actions or mitigation.

Rule 224 – Cutback and Emulsified Asphalt Paving Materials. This rule governs the use of asphalt and limits the VOC content in asphalt.

Rule 610 – Land Development Fees. To establish fees to recover the cost to the District of work related to land development, including but not limited to, fees associated with a Fugitive Dust Plan Review.

In addition, there are other EDCAQMD rules and regulations, not detailed here, which may apply to the Proposed Project but are administrative or descriptive in nature. These include rules associated with fees, enforcement and penalty actions, and variance procedures.

4.3.2.2 El Dorado General Plan

The following are applicable goals and policies from the Public Health, Safety, and Noise Element of the General Plan (County of El Dorado 2019), which was updated in August 2019. The most recent goals and policies are listed below:

Goal 6.7: Air Quality Maintenance – Strive to achieve and maintain ambient air quality standards established by the USEPA and CARB and minimize public exposure to toxic or hazardous air pollutants and air pollutants that create unpleasant odors.

Policy 6.7.7.1: The County shall consider air quality when planning the land uses and transportation systems to accommodate expected growth, and shall use the

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recommendations in the most recent version of the EDCAQMD *Guide to Air Quality Assessment: Determining Significance of Air Quality Impacts Under the California Environmental Quality Act* to analyze potential air quality impacts (e.g., short-term construction, long-term operations, toxic- and odor-related emissions) and to require feasible mitigation requirements for such impacts. The County shall also consider any new information or technology that becomes available prior to periodic updates of the Guide. The County shall encourage actions (e.g., use of light-colored roofs and retention of trees) to help mitigate heat island effects on air quality.

4.3.3 Air Quality (III.) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No impact.

As part of its enforcement responsibilities, the USEPA requires each state with nonattainment areas to prepare and submit a State Implementation Plan (SIP) that demonstrates the means to attain the federal standards. The SIP must integrate federal, state, and local plan components and regulations to identify specific measures to reduce pollution in nonattainment areas, using a combination of performance standards and market-based programs. Similarly, under state law, the California Clean Air Act requires an Air Quality Attainment Plan to be prepared for areas designated as nonattainment with regard to the NAAQS and CAAQS. Air Quality Attainment Plans outline emissions limits and control measures to achieve and maintain these standards by the earliest practical date.

The EDCAQMD, in collaboration with all other air districts in the greater Sacramento region, prepared the *2017 Sacramento Regional 2008 8-Hour Ozone Attainment and Further Reasonable Progress Plan* (including 2018 updates) and *2013 PM_{2.5} Implementation/Maintenance Plan and Re-designation Request for Sacramento PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area*. These plans collectively address the air basin's nonattainment status of the national O₃ and PM_{2.5} standards by establishing a program of rules and regulations directed at reducing air pollutant emissions and achieving national air quality standards. Pollutant control strategies are based on the latest scientific and technical information and planning assumptions, updated emission inventory methodologies for various source categories, and the latest population growth projections and associated vehicle miles traveled projections for the region. The region's latest population growth forecasts were defined in consultation with local governments and with reference to local general plans. The Project must comply with all applicable rules for construction and operation, and as such would be consistent with the emission-reduction goals of the Attainment Plans.

The Project is proposing the demolition of existing facility buildings and the reconstruction of those buildings to house and support the existing staff and inmate population. The Project thus is consistent with the County General Plan land use designation as there are no proposed changes in land uses and,

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therefore, would not exceed the population or job growth projections used by the EDCAQMD to develop its Air Quality Attainment Plans. Additionally, as shown in Tables 4-3 and 4-4 (below), both Project construction and Project operations would not generate emissions that would exceed EDCAQMD significance thresholds, which were established to achieve national air quality standards.

Thus, the Project would be consistent with the emission-reduction goals of the EDCAQMD Attainment Plans. No impact would occur.

Would the Project	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than significant impact.

By its very nature, air pollution is largely a cumulative impact. No single project is sufficient in size, by itself, to result in nonattainment of ambient air quality standards. Instead, a project's individual emissions contribute to existing cumulatively significant adverse air quality impacts. If a project's individual emissions exceed its identified significance thresholds (listed below, Table 4.4), the project would be cumulatively considerable. Projects that do not exceed significance thresholds would not be considered cumulatively considerable.

Implementation of the Proposed Project could result in air quality impacts during Project construction and operation. However, these impacts would not exceed significance thresholds and would be less than significant

4.3.3.1 Construction Emissions

Construction-Generated Criteria Air Pollutant Emissions

Construction associated with the Proposed Project would generate short-term emissions of criteria air pollutants, including reactive organic gasses (ROG), CO, NO_x, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}. The largest amount of ROG, CO, and NO_x emissions would occur during the earthwork phase. PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emissions would occur from fugitive dust (due to earthwork and excavation) and from construction equipment exhaust. Exhaust emissions from construction activities include emissions associated with the transport of machinery and supplies to and from the Project Site, emissions produced onsite as the equipment is used, and emissions from trucks transporting materials to and from the site. Construction-generated emissions are short term and of temporary duration, lasting only as long as construction activities occur, but have the potential to represent a significant air quality impact.

All developments are subject to EDCAQMD rules and regulations in effect at the time of construction. Rule 215 (Architectural Coatings) defines the quantities of ROG in paint permitted for use in new construction.

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Rule 223 (Fugitive Dust-General) limits man-made fugitive dust to the property line of the construction site. Rule 223-1 requires that a Fugitive Dust Control Plan be prepared and submitted to the EDCAQMD prior to ground-disturbing activities. Rule 224 (Cutback and Emulsified Asphalt) defines the types of cutback and emulsified asphalts permitted for use in the county. Under Rule 610 (Land Development Fees), the EDCAQMD would charge a fee to review the Fugitive Dust Control Plan required by Rule 223-1.

The EDCAQMD has adopted guidelines for determining potential adverse effects to air quality in the region. The EDCAQMD guidelines state that construction activities are considered a potentially significant adverse impact if such activities generate total emissions in excess of EDCAQMD established thresholds. According to the *Guide to Air Quality Assessment*, if identified ROG and NO_x emissions are under the construction emissions threshold of 82 pounds generated per day, and thus considered less than significant, then emissions of CO and PM would also be considered less than significant.

Table 4-3 illustrates the specific construction-related criteria and precursor emissions that would result from construction of the Proposed Project and compares them to the EDCAQMD's significance thresholds.

Table 4-3. Construction-Related Emissions						
Construction Year	Maximum Pollutants (Maximum Pounds Per Day)					
	ROG	NO_x	CO	SO₂	PM₁₀	PM_{2.5}
Year One Construction (2022)	13.17	44.93	53.48	0.12	19.91	11.48
Year Two Construction (2023)	12.76	40.63	52.11	0.11	5.98	2.78
<i>EDCAQMD Potentially Significant Impact Threshold</i>	82	82	—	—	—	—
Exceed EDCAQMD Threshold?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Source: California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) version 2016.3.2. Refer to Attachment A in *Appendix B* for Model Data Outputs.

Notes: Construction emissions taken from the season (summer or winter) with the highest output.

As demonstrated in Table 4-3, Project construction would not result in an exceedance of EDCAQMD thresholds for daily air pollutant emissions during construction activities, and no health effects from Project criteria pollutants would occur. A less than significant impact would occur as a result of construction of the Proposed Project.

Operational Criteria Air Pollutant Emissions

By its very nature, air pollution is largely a cumulative impact. No single project is sufficient in size, by itself, to result in nonattainment of ambient air quality standards. Instead, a project's individual emissions contribute to existing cumulatively significant adverse air quality impacts. If a project's individual emissions exceed its identified significance thresholds, the project would be cumulatively considerable. Projects that do not exceed significance thresholds would not be considered cumulative considerable.

The Project proposes the replacement of several existing buildings located on the Growlersburg facility with new and more modern buildings. The Project would include the demolition and replacement of 17 buildings totaling 82,819 square feet. New facilities to be constructed would include an administration/

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multipurpose building, inmate recreation and hobby building, mess hall/ kitchen, 136-bed inmate barracks, sawmill shed, sawmill and planer assembly building, storage and drying building, carpentry shop, fire pump and electrical equipment building, fuel storage shed, staging restroom, auto shop, warehouse building, office barracks, 3-bay garage and wash rack building, program/ visitation building, and a mobile kitchen unit storage building. The Proposed Project would also include the installation of two 250,000-gallon storage tanks for a domestic water/fire suppression system, aboveground fuel vault, propane tank, radio tower, grading and paving, underground water/sewage/electrical lines, and various fire, phone, data and public address systems. For the purposes of this analysis, projected operational emissions associated with proposed operations are compared to the existing baseline, which includes the approximately 82,819 square feet of existing facility buildings.

Implementation of the Project would result in long-term operational emissions of criteria air pollutants, such as PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, CO, and SO₂, as well as O₃ precursors, such as ROG and NO_x. Project-generated increases in emissions would be predominantly associated with area sources. Table 4-4 summarizes operational emissions from the Proposed Project.

Table 4-4. Operations-Related Criteria Pollutant and Precursor Emissions						
Emission Source	Pollutant (pounds per day)					
	ROG	NO_x	CO	SO₂	PM₁₀	PM_{2.5}
Baseline Emissions – Pounds per Day (Maximum)						
Area	2.42	0.02	1.90	0.00	0.01	0.01
Energy	0.03	0.35	0.29	0.00	0.02	0.02
Mobile	0.13	0.47	1.63	0.00	0.41	0.11
Total	2.58	0.84	3.82	0.00	0.44	0.14
Project Operational Emissions – Pounds per Day (Maximum)						
Area	2.42	0.02	1.89	0.00	0.01	0.01
Energy	0.03	0.31	0.25	0.00	0.02	0.02
Mobile	0.10	0.34	1.30	0.00	0.41	0.11
Total	2.55	0.67	3.44	0.00	0.44	0.14
EDCAQMD Significance Threshold	80	80	-	-	-	-
Exceed EDCAQMD Threshold?	No	No	No	No	No	No
Emissions Reduction from Baseline – Pounds per Day (Maximum)						
Area	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Energy	0.00	-0.04	-0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mobile	-0.03	-0.13	-0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	-0.03	-0.17	-0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
EDCAQMD Significance Threshold	82	82	-	-	-	-
Exceed EDCAQMD Threshold?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Source: CalEEMod version 2016.3.1. See *Appendix B* for emission model outputs.

Notes: Operational emissions taken from the season (summer or winter) with the highest output.

The EDCAQMD has adopted guidelines for determining potential adverse effects to air quality in the region. The EDCAQMD guidelines state that operational activities are considered potentially significant if

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such activities generate total emissions in excess of EDCAQMD established thresholds. As mentioned above, according to the Guide to Air Quality Assessment, if identified ROG and NO_x emissions are under the operation emissions threshold of 82 pounds generated per day, and thus considered less than significant, then emissions of CO and PM would also be considered less than significant.

Table 4-4 illustrates the maximum daily operations-related criteria and precursor emissions that would result from operation of the Project. As shown in Table 4-4, emissions from the proposed new building operations are lower than the emissions being generated by the existing buildings onsite, which are proposed for replacement. Further, Project emissions would not exceed EDCAQMD significance thresholds for operational air pollutant emissions. A less than significant impact would occur as a result of operations of the Proposed Project.

Would the Project	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than significant impact.

Sensitive receptors are defined as facilities or land uses that include members of the population that are particularly sensitive to the effects of air pollutants, such as children, the elderly, and people with illnesses. Examples of these sensitive receptors are residences, schools, hospitals, and daycare centers. CARB has identified the following groups of individuals as the most likely to be affected by air pollution: the elderly over 65, children under 14, athletes, and persons with cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases, such as asthma, emphysema, and bronchitis. The nearest sensitive receptors to the Project Site are a scattering of single-family residences, with the closest located 92 feet east of the Project Site boundary.

Construction-Generated Air Contaminants

Construction-related activities would result in temporary, short-term Project-generated emissions of diesel particulate matter (DPM), ROG, NO_x, CO, and PM₁₀ from the exhaust of off-road, heavy-duty diesel equipment for site preparation (e.g., clearing, grading); soil hauling truck traffic; paving; and other miscellaneous activities. The portion of the MCAB which encompasses the Project Site is designated as a nonattainment area for federal O₃ and PM_{2.5} standards and is also a nonattainment area for the state standards for O₃ and PM₁₀ standards (CARB 2018). Thus, existing O₃, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} levels in the MCAB are at unhealthy levels during certain periods. However, as shown in Table 4-4, the Project would not exceed the EDCAQMD construction emission thresholds, which were established to protect the public health and welfare.

The health effects associated with O₃ are generally linked reduced lung function. Because the Project would not involve construction activities that would result in O₃ precursor emissions (ROG or NO_x) in excess of the EDCAQMD thresholds, the Project is not anticipated to substantially contribute to regional O₃ concentrations and the associated health impacts.

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CO tends to be a localized impact associated with congested intersections. In terms of adverse health effects, CO competes with oxygen, often replacing it in the blood, reducing the blood's ability to transport oxygen to vital organs. The results of excess CO exposure can include dizziness, fatigue, and impairment of central nervous system functions. The Project would not involve construction activities that would result in CO emissions in excess of the EDCAQMD thresholds. Thus, the Project's CO emissions would not contribute to the health effects associated with this pollutant.

PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} contain microscopic solids or liquid droplets that are so small that they can get deep into the lungs and cause serious health problems. PM exposure has been linked to a variety of problems, including premature death in people with heart or lung disease, nonfatal heart attacks, irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma, decreased lung function, and increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing, or difficulty breathing. For construction activity, DPM is the primary TAC of concern. The potential cancer risk from the inhalation of DPM outweighs the potential for all other health impacts (i.e., chronic non-cancer risk, short-term acute risk) and health impacts from other TACs. Based on the emission modeling conducted, the maximum onsite construction-related daily emissions of exhaust PM₁₀, considered a surrogate for DPM and includes emissions of exhaust PM_{2.5}, would be 1.99 and 1.77 pounds per day in construction years 2022 and 2023, respectively (see Attachment A of *Appendix B*). PM₁₀ exhaust is considered a surrogate for DPM as all diesel exhaust is considered to be DPM. As with O₃ and NO_x, the Project would not generate emissions of PM₁₀ or PM_{2.5} that would exceed the EDCAQMD's thresholds. Additionally, the Project would be required to comply with Rule 223 and Rule 223-1 for fugitive dust control, as described above, which limit the amount of fugitive dust generated during construction. Accordingly, the Project's PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emissions are not expected to cause any increase in related regional health effects for these pollutants.

In summary, the Project would not result in a potentially significant contribution to regional or localized concentrations of nonattainment pollutants and would not result in a significant contribution to the adverse health impacts associated with those pollutants. As such, the impact would be less than significant.

Operational Air Contaminants

Operation of the Proposed Project would not result in the development of any substantial sources of new air toxics. As mentioned above, the Project proposes the demolition and replacement of several existing buildings; therefore, there are no new stationary sources associated with the operations of the Project, nor would the Project attract additional heavy-duty trucks that spend long periods queuing and idling at the site. Onsite Project emissions would not result in significant concentrations of pollutants at nearby sensitive receptors. The maximum operation-related emissions of exhaust PM₁₀, considered a surrogate for DPM, would be 0.03 pounds per day. The majority of these emissions would be generated offsite. Therefore, the Project would not be a source of TACs and there would be no impact as a result of Project operations. The Project would not have a high carcinogenic or noncarcinogenic risk during operation. As such, the impact would be less than significant.

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Carbon Monoxide Hot Spots

It has long been recognized that CO exceedances are caused by vehicular emissions, primarily when idling at traffic intersections. Concentrations of CO are a direct function of the number of vehicles, length of delay, and traffic flow conditions. Under certain meteorological conditions, CO concentrations close to congested intersections that experience high levels of traffic and elevated background concentrations may reach unhealthy levels, affecting nearby sensitive receptors. Given the high traffic volume potential, areas of high CO concentrations, or "hot spots," are typically associated with intersections that are projected to operate at unacceptable levels of service during the peak commute hours. However, transport of this criteria pollutant is extremely limited, and CO disperses rapidly with distance from the source under normal meteorological conditions. Furthermore, vehicle emission standards have become increasingly more stringent in the last 20 years. In 1993, much of the state was designated nonattainment under the CAAQS and NAAQS for CO. Currently, the allowable CO emissions standard in California is a maximum of 3.4 grams/mile for passenger cars (there are requirements for certain vehicles that are more stringent). With the turnover of older vehicles, introduction of cleaner fuels, and implementation of increasingly sophisticated and efficient emissions control technologies, CO concentration across the entire state is now designated as attainment. Detailed modeling of Project-specific CO "hot spots" is not necessary and thus this potential impact is addressed qualitatively.

A CO "hot spot" would occur if an exceedance of the state one-hour standard of 20 parts per million (ppm) or the eight-hour standard of 9 ppm were to occur. A study conducted in Los Angeles County by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is helpful in showing the amount of traffic necessary to result in a CO Hotspot. The SCAQMD analysis prepared for CO attainment in the SCAQMD's *1992 Federal Attainment Plan for Carbon Monoxide* in Los Angeles County, and a Modeling and Attainment Demonstration prepared by the SCAQMD as part of the 2003 Air Quality Management Plan, can be used to demonstrate the potential for CO exceedances of these standards. The SCAQMD conducted a CO hot spot analysis as part of the 1992 CO Federal Attainment Plan at four busy intersections in Los Angeles County during the peak morning and afternoon time periods. The intersections evaluated included Long Beach Boulevard and Imperial Highway (Lynwood), Wilshire Boulevard and Veteran Avenue (Westwood), Sunset Boulevard and Highland Avenue (Hollywood), and La Cienega Boulevard and Century Boulevard (Inglewood). The busiest intersection evaluated was at Wilshire Boulevard and Veteran Avenue, which has a traffic volume of approximately 100,000 vehicles per day. Despite this level of traffic, the CO analysis concluded that there was no violation of CO standards (SCAQMD 1992). To establish a more accurate record of baseline CO concentrations affecting the South Coast Air Basin, a CO "hot spot" analysis was conducted in 2003 at the same four busy intersections in Los Angeles at the peak morning and afternoon time periods. This "hot spot" analysis did not reveal any violation of CO standards. The highest one-hour concentration was measured at 4.6 ppm at Wilshire Boulevard and Veteran Avenue and the highest eight-hour concentration was measured at 8.4 ppm at Long Beach Boulevard and Imperial Highway.

Similar considerations are also employed by other Air Districts when evaluating potential CO concentration impacts. More specifically, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District concludes that under existing and future vehicle emission rates, a given project would have to increase traffic volumes at

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a single intersection by more than 44,000 vehicles per hour or 24,000 vehicles per hour where vertical and/or horizontal air do not mix—in order to generate a significant CO impact.

52 trips are anticipated to be generated per day from the 14 CAL FIRE and 12 CDCR employees, the same amount as current conditions. Thus, the Proposed Project would not generate traffic volumes of more than 100,000 vehicles per day (or 44,000 vehicles per day) at any intersection; there is no likelihood of the Project traffic exceeding CO values.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No impact.

Typically, odors are regarded as an annoyance rather than a health hazard. However, manifestations of a person's reaction to foul odors can range from psychological (e.g., irritation, anger, or anxiety) to physiological (e.g., circulatory and respiratory effects, nausea, vomiting, and headache).

With respect to odors, the human nose is the sole sensing device. The ability to detect odors varies considerably among the population and overall is quite subjective. Some individuals have the ability to smell minute quantities of specific substances; others may not have the same sensitivity but may have sensitivities to odors of other substances. In addition, people may have different reactions to the same odor; in fact, an odor that is offensive to one person (e.g., from a fast-food restaurant) may be perfectly acceptable to another. It is also important to note that an unfamiliar odor is more easily detected and is more likely to cause complaints than a familiar one. This is because of the phenomenon known as odor fatigue, in which a person can become desensitized to almost any odor and recognition only occurs with an alteration in the intensity.

Quality and intensity are two properties present in any odor. The quality of an odor indicates the nature of the smell experience. For instance, if a person describes an odor as flowery or sweet, then the person is describing the quality of the odor. Intensity refers to the strength of the odor. For example, a person may use the words "strong" or "pungent" to describe the intensity of an odor. Odor intensity depends on the odorant concentration in the air. When an odorous sample is progressively diluted, the odorant concentration decreases. As this occurs, the odor intensity weakens and eventually becomes so low that the detection or recognition of the odor is quite difficult. At some point during dilution, the concentration of the odorant reaches a detection threshold. An odorant concentration below the detection threshold means that the concentration in the air is not detectable by the average human.

Land uses commonly considered to be potential sources of obnoxious odorous emissions include agriculture (farming and livestock), wastewater treatment plants, food processing plants, chemical plants, composting facilities, refineries, landfills, dairies, and fiberglass molding. The Proposed Project does not include any uses considered to be associated with odors. As such, no impact would occur.

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4.3.4 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.4 Biological Resources

This section is based on the analysis and recommendations presented in the *Biological Technical Report* prepared for the Proposed Project (ECORP 2021b, *Appendix C*). ECORP biologist Keith Kwan conducted a general biological resource assessment on March 3, 2021. The purpose of this assessment was to identify potential biological resources constraints (e.g., aquatic resources, special-status species) onsite, identify regulatory requirements for development of the site, and assess potential mitigation needs. During the assessment, the following biological resource information was collected:

- Direct observations of special-status species;
- Animal and plant species directly observed;
- Habitat and vegetation communities; and
- Identification of aquatic resources.

Other field studies conducted during this visit included an aquatic resources delineation and an oak tree/oak woodlands survey. The results of these studies are summarized in the Biological Technical Report (ECORP 2021b, *Appendix C*). The aquatic resources delineation was performed in accordance with the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory 1987) or the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountain, Valleys, and Coast Region* (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE] 2010). The oak tree/oak woodland survey was conducted according to El Dorado County's Oak Resources Technical Report Checklist. The results of the field survey, including site characteristics, plant communities, plants, wildlife, special-status species, and special-status habitats are summarized below and provided in *Appendix C*.

4.4.1 Environmental Setting

4.4.1.1 Existing Site

The Study Area is located at the CDCR/CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp, which includes developed areas surrounded by undeveloped forested lands. The Study Area is situated at an elevational range of approximately 2,500 to 2,700 feet above mean sea level, at the interface of the Sierra Nevada Foothills and the High Sierra Nevada Subregions of the Sierra Nevada floristic region of California (Baldwin et al. 2012). The average winter low temperature is 35.1 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) and the average summer high temperature is 87.8 °F in Georgetown, California, approximately 1.5 miles east of the Study Area; the average annual precipitation is approximately 51.53 inches (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] 2021).

The Study Area is made up of developed CDCR/CAL FIRE facilities and the surrounding undeveloped oak woodland/conifer forest. The developed lands onsite include paved surfaces, roads, living quarters,

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buildings, landscaping, and a large mown ball field/grassy area. The surrounding lands include oak woodland/conifer forest within private rural residential parcels.

4.4.1.2 Vegetation Communities

The vegetation communities found outside of the developed portions of the Study Area include *Pinus ponderosa*-*Calocedrus decurrens* Forest and Woodland Alliance (mixed conifer forest and woodland) and *Quercus kelloggii* Forest and Woodland Alliance (California black oak forest and woodland) (Figure 2. Vegetation Communities in *Appendix C*). Both of these communities have global and state rarity rankings of G4 and S4, respectively, and are not considered sensitive natural communities according to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Rarity ranks of 1-3 are considered sensitive.

The mixed conifer forest and woodland vegetation community onsite is composed of codominant trees, including incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), with scattered Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*). The herbaceous understory comprises a variety of grasses and forbs. Herbaceous plants found in the understory included wild oats (*Avena* sp.), hedgehog dog-tail grass (*Cynosurus echinatus*), vetch (*Vicia* sp.), goose grass (*Galium aparine*), and hedge parsley (*Torilis arvensis*). Scattered woody plants found in the understory of the mixed conifer forest include California coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*), scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* species). The understory is open and periodically cleared to reduce fuel.

The California black oak forest and woodland vegetation community onsite is an open canopy woodland dominated by California black oak. The understory plant species in the community include many found in the mixed conifer forest and woodland community. A complete list of plant species observed on the Project Site and 500-foot buffer is included in Attachment B of *Appendix C*.

4.4.1.3 Wildlife Observations and Movement/Corridors/Nursery Sites

The developed portions of the Study Area are subject to constant levels of disturbance from the presence of people and vehicle traffic throughout the year. The Study Area is not an Important Biological Corridor as described by the county on a map dated March 10, 2020 (El Dorado County 2020).

During the site visit in March 2021, a variety of bird species were observed in the Study Area. While the CDCR/CalFire facilities are highly disturbed throughout the year, some nesting bird activity is expected in trees and shrubs onsite and in close proximity to the Study Area. A list of wildlife species observed during the field survey is included in Attachment C of *Appendix C*.

4.4.1.4 Plants

Twenty-eight special-status plants have been identified as potentially occurring within the Study Area based on the initial literature review and database queries (Table 1 of *Appendix C*). However, it was determined that 14 of the plant species were absent due to a lack of suitable habitat onsite or the plant is not known to occur at the elevation of the Study Area. No further discussion of these species is included in this section. A brief description of the remaining 14 special-status plants that have the potential to occur within the Study Area is presented below.

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Sanborn's Onion (*Allium sanbornii* var. *sanbornii*), True's manzanita (*Arctostaphylos mewukka* ssp. *truei*), and *Fresno ceanothus* (*Ceanothus fresnensis*) are not listed pursuant to either the federal or California Endangered Species Acts (ESA) but are designated as California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 4.2 species; there are no documented California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) occurrences within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2021). However, the mixed conifer forest and California black oak woodland within the Study Area provide a suitable habitat for these species.

Tripod buckwheat (*Eriogonum tripodum*), Humboldt lily (*Lilium humboldtii* ssp. *humboldtii*), and Streambank spring beauty (*Claytonia parviflora* ssp. *grandiflora*) are not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESA but are designated as CRPR 4.2 species. There are no documented CNDDDB occurrences of these species within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2021). The mixed conifer forest and California black oak woodland within the Study Area provide a marginally suitable habitat for this species.

Red Hills soaproot (*Chlorogalum grandiflorum*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESA but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 plant. This species is a bulbiferous perennial herb that typically occurs on serpentinite, gabbroic, and other soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest communities (California Native Plant Society [CNPS] 2021). There are eight documented CNDDDB occurrences of Red Hills soaproot within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2021). The mixed conifer forest and California black oak woodland within the Study Area provide a suitable habitat for this species.

Brandegees' clarkia (*Clarkia biloba* ssp. *brandegeae*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESA but is designated as a CRPR 4.2 plant. This species is an herbaceous annual that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodlands, and lower montane coniferous forest often along roadcuts (CNPS 2021). There is one documented CNDDDB occurrence of Brandegees' clarkia within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2021). The mixed conifer forest and California black oak woodland within the Study Area provide a marginally suitable habitat for this species.

Sierra clarkia (*Clarkia virgata*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESA but is designated as a CRPR 4.3 plant. This species is an herbaceous annual that occurs in cismontane woodlands and lower montane coniferous forest (CNPS 2021). There are no documented CNDDDB occurrences of Sierra clarkia within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2021). The mixed conifer forest and California black oak woodland within the Study Area provide a marginally suitable habitat for this species.

Parry's horkelia (*Horkelia parryi*) and Stebbins' phacelia (*Phacelia stebbinsi*) are not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESA but are designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. There are no documented CNDDDB occurrences of these species within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2021). The mixed conifer forest and California black oak woodland within the Study Area provide a suitable habitat for this species.

Sierra blue grass (*Poa sierrae*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESA but is designated as a CRPR 1B.3 species. This species is a rhizomatous herbaceous perennial that occurs in lower montane coniferous forest openings (CNPS 2021). There are no documented CNDDDB occurrences of Sierra blue grass within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2021). The mixed conifer forest and California black oak woodland within the Study Area provide a suitable habitat for this species.

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Oval-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum ellipticum*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESA but is designated as a CRPR 2B.3 species. This species is a perennial deciduous shrub that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest communities. There are no documented CNDDDB occurrences of oval-leaved viburnum within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2021). The mixed conifer forest and California black oak woodland within the Study Area provide a suitable habitat for this species.

Butte County fritillary (*Fritillaria eastwoodiae*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESA but is designated as a CRPR 3.2 species. This species is an herbaceous bulbiferous perennial that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest, and is occasionally found on serpentinite soils (CNPS 2021). There is one documented CNDDDB occurrence of Butte County fritillary within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2021). The mixed conifer forest and California black oak woodland within the Study Area provide a suitable habitat for this species.

4.4.1.5 Invertebrates

No invertebrates were identified as potentially occurring within the Study Area based on the initial literature review and database queries, and it was determined that there is no suitable habitat onsite for any special-status invertebrates. As such, based on the current Project limits, there are no anticipated impacts to, or recommended actions, pertaining to special-status invertebrates.

4.4.1.6 Fish

One special-status fish, the Delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*) (Table 1 in *Appendix C*), was identified as having potential to occur in the Study Area based on the literature review. However, upon further analysis and after the site visit, this special-status species was considered absent because there is no suitable habitat in the Study Area. As such, based on the current Project limits, there are no anticipated impacts to, or recommended actions, pertaining to special-status fish.

4.4.1.7 Amphibians

Two special-status amphibians were identified as having potential to occur in the Study Area based on the literature review (Table 1 in *Appendix C*). However, upon further analysis and after the site visit, all of these special-status species were considered absent from the site due to the lack of a suitable aquatic habitat. As such, based on the current Project limits, there are no anticipated impacts to, or recommended actions, pertaining to special-status amphibians.

4.4.1.8 Reptiles

Two special-status reptiles were identified as having the potential to occur in the Study Area based on the literature review (Table 1 in *Appendix C*). However, upon further analysis and after the site visit, both of these special-status species were considered absent from the site due to the lack of a suitable habitat. As such, based on the current Project limits, there are no anticipated impacts to, or recommended actions, pertaining to special-status reptiles.

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4.4.1.9 Birds

Eight special-status bird species were identified as having the potential to occur within the Study Area based on the literature review. However, upon further analysis and after the site visit, three of these species were considered absent from the site due to the lack of a suitable habitat and/or the Study Area is outside the known breeding range of the species. No further discussion of these species is provided in this analysis. A brief description of the remaining five special-status birds that have the potential to occur within the Study Area is presented below.

The sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) is not listed pursuant to either the California or federal ESA. However, it is a CDFW "watch list" species and currently tracked in the CNDDDB. Their breeding range in California is poorly known but breeding or summering sharp-shinned hawks have occurred throughout the state (Bildstein et al. 2020; Small 1994). There are no CNDDDB occurrences of sharp-shinned hawk reported within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2021). The trees in the mixed conifer forest and California black oak woodland within and adjacent to the Study Area could provide nesting and foraging habitat for this species. Sharp-shinned hawk have potential to nest onsite.

The Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) is not listed pursuant to either the California or federal ESAs. However, it is a CDFW "watch list" species and is currently tracked in the CNDDDB. Typical nesting and foraging habitats include riparian woodland, dense oak woodland, and other woodlands near water. There are no CNDDDB occurrences of Cooper's hawk reported within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2021). The trees in the mixed conifer forest and California black oak woodland within and adjacent to the Study Area could provide nesting and foraging habitat for this species. Cooper's hawk has potential to nest onsite.

The Nuttall's woodpecker (*Dryobates nuttallii*) is not listed and protected under either California or federal ESA but is considered a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) bird of conservation concern (BCC). They are resident from Siskiyou County south to Baja California. There are no CNDDDB occurrences of Nuttall's woodpecker reported within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2021). The trees in the mixed conifer forest and California black oak woodland within and adjacent to the Study Area could provide nesting and foraging habitat for this species. Nuttall's woodpecker has potential to nest onsite.

The olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) is not listed pursuant to either the California or federal ESA but is a CDFW species of special concern (SSC) and a USFWS BCC. In the western U.S., olive-sided flycatchers breed from Washington south throughout California, except the Central Valley, eastern deserts, and mountains of southern California (Small 1994). There are no CNDDDB occurrences of olive-sided flycatcher reported within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2021). The trees in the mixed conifer forest and California black oak woodland within and adjacent to the Study Area could provide nesting and foraging habitat for this species. Olive-sided flycatcher has potential to nest onsite.

Oak titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*) is not listed and protected under either California or federal ESA but is considered a USFWS BCC. Oak titmouse breeding range includes southwestern Oregon south through California's Coast, Transverse, and Peninsular ranges, western foothills of the Sierra Nevada, into Baja California; they are absent from the humid northwestern coastal region and the San Joaquin Valley (Cicero et al. 2020). There are no CNDDDB occurrences of oak titmouse reported within five miles of the Study Area

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(CDFW 2021). The trees in the mixed conifer forest and California black oak woodland within and adjacent to the Study Area could provide nesting and foraging habitat for this species. Oak titmouse has potential to nest onsite.

4.4.1.10 Mammals

Two special-status mammal species were identified as having the potential to occur within the Study Area based on the literature review (Table 1 in *Appendix C*). After the site visit, it was determined that both have potential to occur onsite. A brief description of these two special-status bat species is presented below.

The pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*) and Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) are not listed pursuant to either the California or federal ESA; however, these species are considered an SSC by CDFW. There are no CNDDDB occurrences of these species reported within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2021). The trees in the ponderosa pine forest and California black oak and some structures within and surrounding the Survey Area could support suitable roosting habitat for both species.

4.4.1.11 Sensitive Natural Communities

No sensitive natural communities were identified as having the potential to occur within the vicinity of the Study Area based on the literature review (CDFW 2021). During the field assessment, no sensitive natural communities were found onsite. No further discussion of sensitive natural communities is provided within this assessment.

4.4.2 Biological Resources (IV) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.

No special-status species are known to occur within the Study Area; however, special-status plant and animal surveys have not been conducted. The Study Area includes potential habitat for special-status species within the impact area. Potential effects to special-status species are summarized in the following sections by taxonomic group or species.

4.4.2.1 Special-Status Plants

There is no potential habitat for federal- or State-listed plant species in the Study Area, but there is potential or low potential for 14 non-listed special-status plant species to occur. Project development would permanently remove or alter a minimal amount of marginally suitable or suitable potential habitat

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for special-status plants and, in the unlikely chance that special-status plant populations occur onsite, they may be directly or indirectly impacted by development.

Implementation of recommendations **PLANT-1** and **PLANT-2** described in Section 4.4.3 (below) would avoid, minimize, and/or compensate for potential effects to special-status plants. With implementation of these measures, the Project is not expected to significantly impact special-status plants.

4.4.2.2 Special-Status and Other Protected Birds

There is potential nesting habitat for five non-listed special-status bird species and a variety of other birds that are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the California Fish and Game Code. Project development would permanently remove or alter a minimal amount of nesting and foraging habitat in the development area, and Project construction would generate a temporary disturbance that would likely displace foraging birds from the Study Area during construction. Permanent removal or alteration of a minimal amount of habitat and displacement of foraging birds during construction is not expected to significantly impact special-status birds.

4.4.2.3 Special-Status Mammals

Two special-status bats have potential to occur in the Study Area. Removal of trees and structures may directly impact roosting habitat. Project development would permanently remove a minimal amount of potential roosting and foraging habitat in the development area, and Project construction would generate a temporary disturbance during the day that would likely displace day-roosting bats from the Study Area. Permanent removal of a minimal amount of potential roosting habitat and displacement of day-roosting bats during construction is not expected to significantly impact special-status bats. Implementation of mitigation measure **BAT-1** described in Section 4.4.3 (below) would avoid and/or minimize potential effects to special-status bats.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No Impact.

The Study Area supports mixed conifer forest and oak woodland within the Proposed Project footprint. Both of these vegetation communities are not considered a sensitive natural community according to CDFW, and there is no riparian habitat onsite. Therefore, the Project will not impact riparian habitat or sensitive natural communities.

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Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No Impact.

Based on the aquatic resources delineation, the only aquatic resource present within the Study Area is the Georgetown Divide Ditch, which is managed by the GDPUD. This ditch is not likely to be jurisdictional based on current definitions of Waters of the U.S. and Waters of the State. Further, there are no Proposed Project impacts to this ditch. There are no other aquatic resources onsite. Therefore, the Project is not expected to impact aquatic resources, including waters of the U.S. and State.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less Than Significant Impact.

The Study Area provides limited migratory opportunities for terrestrial wildlife because of existing developed CAL FIRE and CDCR operations onsite. Project construction is likely to temporarily disturb and displace some wildlife from the Study Area. Some wildlife, such as birds or nocturnal species, are likely to continue to use the habitats opportunistically for the duration of construction. Once construction is complete, wildlife movements are expected to resume but will likely be more limited through the developed areas of the Study Area. The Project is not expected to substantially interfere with wildlife movement. There are no documented nursery sites and no nursery sites were observed within the Study Area during the site reconnaissance. Therefore, the Project is not expected to impact wildlife nursery sites.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

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ECORP conducted a field survey on March 3, 2021, with ECORP arborist Krissy Walker-Berry biologists Gabrielle Attisani and Keith Kwan. A total of 74 trees with stems or driplines within the Study Area and 2.941 acres of Oak Woodland were inventoried. Additionally, four Heritage Trees were inventoried: one California black oak and three canyon live oak (tag numbers 6, 26, 65, and 72). Impacts are estimated to include 32 oak trees, which total 620.5 inches (Appendix C, Attachment A), and 2.584 acres of woodland. Implementation of recommendations **OAK-1** described in Section 4.4.3 (below) would avoid and/or minimize potential effects to California black oak, canyon Live oak trees and oak woodland.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No impact.

The Study Area is not covered by any local, regional, or state conservation plan. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with a local, regional, or state conservation plan.

4.4.3 Mitigation Measures

PLANT-1: Floristic Plant Surveys. Perform floristic plant surveys where Project implementation will impact California black oak woodlands or mixed conifer forest and woodland communities according to USFWS, CDFW, and CNPS protocols prior to construction. A qualified biologist should conduct the surveys and time them according to the appropriate phenological stage for identifying target species. Known reference populations should be visited and/or local herbaria records should be reviewed, if available, prior to surveys to confirm the phenological stage of the target species. If no special-status plants are found within the Project impact areas, no further measures pertaining to special-status plants are necessary.

PLANT-2: Special-Status Plants. If special-status plants are identified within 25-feet of the Project impact area, implement the following measures

- If avoidance of special-status plants is feasible, establish and clearly demarcate avoidance zones for special-status plant occurrences prior to construction. Avoidance zones should include the extent of the special-status plants, plus a 25-foot buffer, unless otherwise determined by a qualified biologist, and should be maintained until the completion of construction. A qualified biologist/biological monitor should be present if work must occur within the avoidance buffer to ensure special-status plants are not impacted by the work.
- If avoidance of special-status plants is not feasible, mitigate for significant impacts to special-status plants. Mitigation measures shall be developed in consultation with CDFW. Mitigation measures may include permanent preservation of onsite or offsite

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habitat for special-status plants and/or translocation of plants or seeds from impacted areas to unaffected habitats.

- BIRD-1: Pre- Construction Nesting Bird Surveys.** If construction is to occur during the nesting season (generally February 1 - August 31), conduct a pre-construction nesting bird survey of all suitable nesting habitat within 14 days of the commencement of construction. The survey shall be conducted within a 500-foot radius of Project impact limits for raptors and within a 100-foot radius for other nesting birds. If any active nests are observed, these nests shall be designated a sensitive area and protected by an avoidance buffer established by a qualified biologist in coordination with CDFW until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or parental care for survival. Pre-construction nesting surveys are not required for construction activity outside the nesting season.
- BAT-1: Pre- Construction Bat Surveys.** Within 14 days prior to Project activities that may impact bat roosting habitat (e.g., removal of manmade structures or trees), a qualified biologist will survey for all suitable roosting habitat within the Project impact limits. If suitable roosting habitat is not identified, no further measures are necessary. If suitable roosting habitat is identified, a qualified biologist will conduct an evening bat emergence survey that may include acoustic monitoring to determine whether or not bats are present. If roosting bats are determined to be present within the Project impact limits, consultation with CDFW prior to initiation of construction activities and/or preparation of a Bat Management Plan outlining avoidance and minimization measures specific to the roost(s) potentially affected may be required.
- OAK-1: Donate Funds to Mother Lode Land Trust.** The proposed project will pay the Mother Lode Land Trust (nonprofit organization) a total of \$89,600 for the purchase of property containing Oak Woodland for permanent conservation and stewardship.

4.5 Cultural Resources

This section is based on the analysis, findings, and recommendations presented in the *Cultural Resources Inventory and Architectural History Evaluation Report, CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project* prepared for the Proposed Project. This report is confidential and will not be included in the appendix.

4.5.1 Regulatory Framework

4.5.1.1 Federal

National Historic Preservation Act

The National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal agencies take into account the effects of their undertakings in advance on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), which is the nation's master inventory of known historic resources. The NRHP is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and

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includes listings of buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that possess historic, architectural, engineering, archaeological, or cultural significance at the national, state, or local level.

Structures, sites, buildings, districts, and objects over 50 years of age can be listed in the NRHP as significant historic resources. However, properties under 50 years of age that are of exceptional importance or are contributors to a historic district can also be included in the NRHP.¹ The criteria for listing in the NRHP include resources that:

- a) are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history;
- b) are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- c) embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- d) have yielded or may likely yield information important in prehistory or history.

4.5.1.2 State

California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) is used by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens to identify, evaluate, register, and protect California's historical resources. The CRHR is the authoritative guide to the state's significant historical and archaeological resources. This program encourages public recognition and protection of resources of architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural significance, identifies historical resources for state and local planning purposes, determines eligibility for state historic preservation grant funding, and affords certain protections under CEQA.

California Environmental Quality Act

Under CEQA, public agencies must consider the effects of their actions on both historical resources and unique archaeological resources. Pursuant to PRC § 21084.1, a "project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment." Section 21083.2 requires agencies to determine whether proposed projects would have effects on unique archaeological resources.

"Historical resource" is a term with a defined statutory meaning (PRC § 21084.1). Under CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a), historical resources include the following:

- A resource listed in or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in the CRHR (PRC § 5024.1).

¹ A [historic] district possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development (NPS 1983).

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- A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in PRC § 5020.1(k) or identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements of PRC § 5024.1(g), will be presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Public agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant
- Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California may be considered to be a historical resource, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource will be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the CRHR (PRC Section 5024.1), including the following:
 - a) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
 - b) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
 - c) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
 - d) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The fact that a resource is not listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing, the CRHR, not included in a local register of historical resources (pursuant to PRC § 5020.1(k)), or identified in a historical resources survey (meeting the criteria in PRC § 5024.1(g)) does not preclude a lead agency from determining that the resource may be an historical resource as defined in PRC §§ 5020.1(j) or 5024.1.

Historical resources are usually 45 years and older and must meet at least one of the criteria for listing in the CRHR, described above (such as association with historical events, important people, or architectural significance), in addition to maintaining a sufficient level of integrity.

Properties of local significance that have been designated under a local preservation ordinance (local landmarks or landmark districts) or that have been identified in a local historical resources inventory may be eligible for listing in the CRHR and are presumed to be historical resources for purposes of CEQA unless a preponderance of evidence indicates otherwise (PRC § 5024.1 and CCR, Title 14, § 4850). Unless a resource listed in a survey has been demolished, lost substantial integrity, or there is a preponderance of evidence indicating that it is otherwise not eligible for listing, a lead agency should consider the resource to be potentially eligible for the CRHR.

CEQA also requires lead agencies to determine if a Proposed Project would have a significant effect on unique archaeological resources. If a lead agency determines that an archaeological site is a historical resource, the provisions of PRC Section 21084.1 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 would apply. If an archaeological site does not meet the CEQA Guidelines criteria for a historical resource, then the site may meet the threshold of PRC Section 21083.2 regarding unique archaeological resources. A unique

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archaeological resource is an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria.

“Unique archaeological resource” means an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

- Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
- Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
- Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.”

The CEQA Guidelines note that if a resource is neither a unique archaeological resource nor a historical resource, the effects of the project on that resource shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment (14 CCR Section 15064[c][4]).

If the project would result in a significant impact to a historical resource or unique archaeological resource, treatment options under PRC § 21083.2 include activities that preserve such resources in place in an undisturbed state. Other acceptable methods of mitigation under Section 21083.2 include excavation and curation or study in place without excavation and curation (if the study finds that the artifacts would not meet one or more of the criteria for defining a unique archaeological resource).

In addition to the mitigation provisions pertaining to accidental discovery of human remains, the CEQA Guidelines also require that a lead agency make provisions for the accidental discovery of historical or archaeological resources, generally. Pursuant to § 15064.5(f), these provisions should include “an immediate evaluation of the find by a qualified archaeologist. If the find is determined to be an historical or unique archaeological resource, contingency funding and a time allotment sufficient to allow for implementation of avoidance measures or appropriate mitigation should be available. Work could continue on other parts of the building site while historical or unique archaeological resource mitigation takes place.”

4.5.2 Environmental Setting

ECORP Consulting, Inc. prepared a cultural resources inventory and evaluation report (ECORP 2021c, CONFIDENTIAL *Appendix D*) for the Proposed Project to determine if cultural resources were present in or adjacent to the Project Area and assess the sensitivity of the Project Area for undiscovered or buried cultural resources. The cultural context of the Project Area, including regional and local prehistory, ethnography, and regional and Project Area histories can be found in the confidential report. The confidential report can be made available to qualified individuals on a need to know basis by contacting the Department of General Services (DGS) Real Estate Services Division.

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The analysis of cultural resources was based on a records and literature search conducted at the North Eastern Information Center (NEIC) of the California Historic Resources Information Center (CHRIS) at California State University, Sacramento, on January 27, 2021, a literature review, and a field survey on February 17, 2021. The literature search included the results of previous surveys within a 0.5-mile radius of the Proposed Project location.

In addition to the record search, ECORP contacted the California NAHC on January 26, 2021, to request a search of the Sacred Lands File for the Project Area.

4.5.2.1 Records, Map, and Aerial Photo Search Results

The records search results indicated that 14 previous cultural resources investigations have been conducted within 0.5 mile of the property, covering approximately 30 percent of the total area surrounding the property within the record search radius.

ECORP conducted a records search for historical resources using various sources. Of the 14 previous cultural studies conducted within the 0.5-mile search radius, three studies crossed a portion of the Project Area, covering approximately 90 percent of the property. The records search also determined that eight previously recorded resources are located within 0.5 mile of the Project Area. These consist of five pre-contact resources and three historic-period resources. Pre-contact resources consist of two artifact scatters, two bedrock milling features, and one isolated find. Of these eight previously recorded resources, a portion of one resource, a historic-era ditch, was recorded within the Project Area.

The National Register Information System (NPS 2020) failed to reveal any eligible or listed properties within the Project Area.

ECORP reviewed resources listed as *California Historical Landmarks* (Office of Historic Preservation [OHP] 1996) and by the OHP (2020) on January 26, 2021. As a result, it was determined that no California Historical Landmarks are located within the Project Area.

A search of historic General Land Office land patent records from the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) patent information database did not reveal the names of any previous owners of the property (BLM 2021).

A review of historical aerial photographs and maps of the Project Area provided information on the past land uses of the property and potential for buried archaeological sites. Prior to a 1946 aerial, the area was undeveloped, and the 1946 aerial shows unpaved roads and pockets of cleared vegetation in the Project Area. The 1949 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 15-minute and 7.5-minute "Georgetown, California" quadrangle maps depict the Georgetown Divide Ditch running through the central-southern portion of the Project Area. The 1972 photorevised version of the 7.5-minute "Georgetown, California" quadrangle map depicts the addition of the Growlersburg Conservation Camp and the various roads running to and within the Camp. Aerial photography since 1993 shows the property in its current state.

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4.5.2.2 Field Survey Results

ECORP surveyed the Project Area for cultural resources on February 17, 2021, using transects spaced 15 meters apart. The entire Area of Potential Effects (APE) surrounding the existing structures was walked, including an open grass field located in the center of the facility and undeveloped areas within the facility parcel. Overall, the majority of the surface area within the APE has been disturbed by fire station facilities, pavement, or landscaped areas of ornamental shrubs, trees, and grasses. Less than 15 percent of the APE contained exposed soil, which appeared to have been modified during construction and maintenance of the facility and landscaping or was blanketed in forest duff or wood chips. As a result of the archaeological survey, no indications of pre-contact resources were observed.

4.5.2.3 Cultural Resources

During the cultural resources field survey of the Project Area, the Growlersburg Conservation Camp, built in 1967, was identified and recorded as a cultural resource. A previously unrecorded segment of the Georgetown Divide Ditch was identified, and the site record was updated.

4.5.2.4 Previously Recorded Resources

The Georgetown Divide Ditch (CA-ELD-959H) was constructed in the 1850s in order to transport water from Loon Lake to Georgetown for mining and public use; it stretches for approximately 75 miles in its entirety (Napton and Greathouse 2007). The ditch was part of a system of several ditches built in the 1850s that were eventually all subsumed under the Georgetown Divide Ditch, which was constructed by a Dr. William H. Stone. The segment of the Georgetown Divide Ditch passing through the current Project Area measures six feet wide at the top, three feet wide at the base, and two feet deep. The segment through the Project Area is approximately 500 feet long, but only about 40 feet of this ditch segment is visible. The majority of ditch was rerouted to run beneath a road and the sawmill yard south of the recreation area.

4.5.2.5 Newly Recorded Resources

The Camp (GCC-001) was originally called Valley View, built in 1967 and designed for a three member crew. An addition was made to the inmate dorm and the bathroom and showers during the 1980s and the Camp count was increased from 80 to 120 inmates. One of 43 fire camps for California state inmates, this facility hosts five crews, who work on local community service projects such as backcountry rescue, vegetation management, and public parks landscaping in addition to emergency fire response work. The facility consists of 20 buildings and structures: the main office, CDCR/CAL FIRE officer quarters, two long utility and skill shop buildings, two auto service buildings, weight/exercise rooms, two truck bays, an A-frame cabin, an open air pole shed, sawmill with ancillary buildings, inmate dorms, kitchen, hobby and recreation rooms, TV room, conference room trailer, and a water storage feature. On the western side of the property are the CDCR buildings and on the eastern side are the CAL FIRE buildings. None of the Camp buildings have previously been recorded or evaluated for the NRHP or CRHR; at the time of Thornton's large-scale 1994 evaluation of CAL FIRE facilities, the Camp was less than 50 years old. All the buildings are functionally related and none of them stand as individual resources independent of their

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historical or current use, so they are treated here as one collective resource. All buildings except for the A-frame cabin used as the family visiting center are vernacular and utilitarian in construction.

The family visiting center is an A-frame cabin front-gabled wood cabin with a steep-pitched metal roof and will not be demolished as part of the Project.

Evaluation/Conclusions

The criteria for listing as a California Historical Landmark (CHL) require the facility to possess exceptional individuality among other similar buildings, with stronger historical associations, styles, or identities, which exceeds the level of significance required for inclusion in the CRHR. Typically, resources that are designated CHLs are also eligible for the CRHR, but not all CRHR-eligible resources are qualified to be CHLs.

The Camp facility was not the first or most significant building constructed by CAL FIRE. It is not a prototype of CAL FIRE facility architecture, nor is it an outstanding "high-style" example of the artistic movement of CAL FIRE development in California. It has not individually made a profound influence on the history of California nor is it the most significant CAL FIRE facility building in El Dorado County or California. Overall, it fails to meet the CHL criteria or possess state-wide historical significance and is considered not eligible for designation as a CHL.

The Georgetown Divide Ditch (CA-ELD-959H) was not the first or most significant ditch of its kind in California. It is not a prototype of water conveyance system architecture, nor is it an outstanding "high-style" example any artistic movement or development in California. It has not individually made a profound influence on the history of California nor is it the most significant water conveyance ditch in El Dorado County or California. Overall, the Georgetown Divide Ditch facility fails to meet the CHL criteria or possess state-wide historical significance and is considered not eligible for designation as a CHL.

4.5.3 Cultural Resources (V) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

One historic-period cultural resource (GCC-001) was identified within the Project Area as a result of this study. The previously recorded irrigation ditch (CA-ELD-959H) was relocated. Resources GCC-001 and the portion of CA-ELD-959H within the Project Area were evaluated using CRHR eligibility criteria and were evaluated as not eligible for listing in the CRHR under any criteria.

Therefore, the Proposed Project would not impact any known historical resources as defined by CEQA; however, archaeological resources could be unearthed during construction and, if found to be significant,

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they would be considered historical resources. With the implementation of mitigation measure **CUL-1**, the Project would have a less than significant impact on historical resources.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

The records search at the NEIC revealed five previously recorded pre-contact resources within a 0.5-mile radius of the Project. These consist of four sites and one isolated find. Two of the four were lithic sites and were located approximately 0.45 mile away from the Project. The other two pre-contact sites are bedrock mortars and located 0.15 mile away from the Project. There are no archaeological sites or unique archaeological resources known to exist within the Project Area.

The underlying sediments within the Project Area consist of Mesozoic volcanic and metavolcanic rocks that are overlain by rocky loamy soils. The loamy soils are composed of two inches of humus from decomposing leaf litter. Despite the age of the geomorphology in the area, there is potential for alluvium to have been deposited along nearby Georgetown Creek. Given the likelihood of pre-contact archaeological sites located along perennial waterways, the potential exists for buried pre-contact archaeological sites in the Project Area. Implementation of Mitigation Measure **CUL-1** would reduce this potential impact to less than significant.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

No dedicated cemeteries are located within or near the Project Site and no human remains have been reported in the Project vicinity. Therefore, the Proposed Project has low potential to disturb human remains. The potential exists, however, for previously unknown remains to be unearthed during construction. The impact on such resources would be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure **CUL-1**.

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4.5.4 Mitigation Measures

CUL-1: Unanticipated Cultural Resources Discoveries. Implement Measures to Protect Unanticipated Discoveries of Cultural Resources or Human Remains.

- If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeologist, shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find, and shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment. The following notifications shall apply, depending on the nature of the find:
 - If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately, and no agency notifications are required.
 - If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does represent a cultural resource from any time period or cultural affiliation, he or she shall immediately notify CAL FIRE. The agency shall consult on a finding of eligibility and implement appropriate treatment measures, if the find is determined to be an Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the Lead Agency, through consultation as appropriate, determines that the site either: 1) is not an Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines; or 2) that the treatment measures have been completed to its satisfaction.
 - If the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, he or she shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance (AB 2641). The archaeologist shall notify the San Bernardino County Coroner (per § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of § 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, § 5097.98 of the California PRC, and AB 2641 will be implemented. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which then will designate a Native American MLD for the project (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC may mediate (§ 5097.94 of the PRC). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate CHRIS; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinternment document with the county in which the property is located (AB 2641). Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the Lead Agency, through consultation as appropriate, determines that the treatment measures have been completed to its satisfaction.

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4.6 Energy

4.6.1 Environmental Setting

4.6.1.1 Introduction

Energy consumption is analyzed in this Initial Study due to the potential direct and indirect environmental impacts associated with the Project. Such impacts include the depletion of nonrenewable resources (oil, natural gas, coal, etc.) and emissions of pollutants during the construction and operational phases. The impact analysis focuses on the four sources of energy that are relevant to the proposed Project: electricity, natural gas, the equipment-fuel necessary for Project construction, and the automotive fuel necessary for Project operations.

4.6.1.2 Electricity/Natural Gas Services

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) provides electricity and natural gas to the Project Area. PG&E generates or buys electricity from hydroelectric, nuclear, renewable, natural gas, and coal facilities. PG&E provides natural gas and electricity to most of the northern two-thirds of California, from Bakersfield and Barstow to near the Oregon, Nevada, and Arizona State Line. It provides 5.2 million people with electricity and natural gas across 70,000 square miles.

4.6.1.3 Energy Consumption

Electricity use is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), and natural gas use is measured in therms. Vehicle fuel use is typically measured in gallons (e.g., gasoline, diesel fuel, or aviation fuel), although energy use for electric vehicles is measured in kWh.

The electricity consumption associated with all uses in El Dorado County from 2015 to 2019 is shown in Table 4-5. As indicated, the demand has decreased since 2015.

Year	Electricity Consumption (kWh)
2019	1,227,890,625
2018	1,214,446,675
2017	1,255,275,737
2016	1,210,248,427
2015	1,170,078,156

Source: California Energy Commission (CEC) 2019

The natural gas consumption associated with all uses in El Dorado County from 2015 to 2019 is shown in Table 4-6. As indicated, the demand has increased since 2015.

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Table 4-6. Natural Gas Consumption in El Dorado County 2015-2019	
Year	Natural Gas Consumption (therms)
2019	34,914,401
2018	32,279,956
2017	33,828,560
2016	30,683,139
2015	28,892,134

Source: CEC 2019

Automotive fuel consumption in El Dorado County from 2016 to 2020 is shown in Table 4-7. As shown, automotive fuel consumption has decreased since 2016.

Table 4-7. Automotive Fuel Consumption in El Dorado County 2016–2020	
Year	Automotive Fuel Consumption (gallons)
2020	77,668,952
2019	79,264,776
2018	81,547,012
2017	83,293,537
2016	83,395,183

Source: CARB 2017

4.6.2 Energy (VI) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than significant impact.

The impact analysis focuses on the four sources of energy that are relevant to the Proposed Project: electricity, natural gas, the equipment-fuel necessary for Project construction, and the automotive fuel necessary for Project operations. Addressing energy impacts requires an agency to make a determination as to what constitutes a significant impact. There are no established thresholds of significance, statewide

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or locally, for what constitutes a wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary consumption of energy for a proposed land use Project. For the purpose of this analysis, the amount of electricity and natural gas estimated to be consumed by the Project is quantified and compared to that consumed by all land uses in El Dorado County. Similarly, the amount of fuel necessary for Project construction and operations is calculated and compared to that consumed in El Dorado County.

The analysis of electricity gas usage is based on CalEEMod conducted by ECORP (see Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessment, *Appendix B*), which quantifies energy use for Project operations. The amount of operational automotive fuel use was estimated using the CARB's Emission Factors database (EMFAC 2017) computer program, which provides projections for typical daily fuel usage in El Dorado County. The amount of total construction-related fuel use was estimated using ratios provided in the Climate Registry's General Reporting Protocol for the Voluntary Reporting Program, Version 2.1. Energy consumption associated with the Proposed Project is summarized in Table 4-8.

Table 4-8. Proposed Project Energy and Fuel Consumption		
Energy Type	Annual Energy Consumption	Percentage Increase Countywide
Electricity Consumption ¹	501,374 kWh	0.040 percent
Natural Gas Consumption ¹	11,892 therms	0.030 percent
Fuel Consumption		
Project Construction 2022 ²	94,089 gallons	0.120 percent
Project Construction 2023 ²	88,571 gallons	0.110 percent
Project Operations ³	5,241 gallons	0.000 percent

Source: ¹ECORP Consulting, Inc. (see *Appendix A*); ²Climate Registry 2016; ³EMFAC2017 (CARB 2017).

Notes: The Project increases in electricity and natural gas consumption are compared with all of uses in El Dorado County in 2019, the latest data available. The Project increases in automotive fuel consumption are compared with the countywide fuel consumption in 2020, the most recent full year of data.

As shown in Table 4-8, the increase in electricity usage as a result of the Project would constitute 501,374 kWh, or a 0.040 percent increase in the typical annual electricity consumption attributable to all uses in El Dorado County. Additionally, Project increases in natural gas usage across the county would be negligible, 11,892 therms, which equates to a 0.030 percent increase in use. The Project would adhere to all federal, state, and local requirements for energy efficiency, including the Title 24 standards. The Project would be required to comply with Title 24 building energy efficiency standards, which establish minimum efficiency standards related to various building features, including appliances, water and space heating and cooling equipment, building insulation and roofing, and lighting. Implementation of the Title 24 standards significantly reduces energy usage. Furthermore, the Project is proposing the demolition of existing facility buildings, and the reconstruction of those buildings. The electricity usage for Project operations is assumed to be similar if not less than what is currently consumed given the implementation of Title 24 standards for the new buildings.

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As further indicated in Table 4-8, the Project' is estimated to consume 94,089 and 88,571 gallons of fuel, during 2022 and 2023 construction, respectively. This would increase the annual gasoline fuel use in the El Dorado County by 0.120 percent and 0.110 percent, respectively. As such, Project construction would have a nominal effect on local and regional energy supplies. No unusual Project characteristics would necessitate the use of construction equipment that would be less energy-efficient than at comparable construction sites in the region or the state. Construction contractors would purchase their own gasoline and diesel fuel from local suppliers and would conserve the use of their supplies to minimize costs and maximize profit. Additionally, construction equipment fleet turnover and increasingly stringent state and federal regulations on engine efficiency combined with state regulations limiting engine idling times and require recycling of construction debris, would further reduce the amount of transportation fuel demand during Project construction. For these reasons, it is expected that construction fuel consumption associated with the Project would not be any more inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary than other similar development projects of this nature.

As indicated in Table 4-8, the Project is estimated to consume 5,241 gallons of automotive fuel per year; however, the number of employees is not anticipated to increase as a result of Project operations. The Project would not result in an increase in operational fuel consumption. Fuel consumption associated with the Project would not be considered inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary in comparison to other similar developments in the region.

For these reasons, this impact would be less than significant.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than significant impact.

The Project would be designed in a manner that is consistent with relevant energy conservation plans designed to encourage development that results in the efficient use of energy resources. The Project is proposing the demolition of existing facility buildings, and the reconstruction of those buildings to house and support the existing staff and inmate population at the Growlersburg Conservation Camp. The new buildings would be built to Title 24 standards and thus, would be more energy efficient than what is currently in use. The Project would not conflict with or obstruct any local or state plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

For these reasons, this impact would be less than significant.

4.6.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required

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4.7 Geology and Soils

This section of the checklist addresses the potential impact of the Proposed Project on geological and soil resources within the Project Area. The information and analysis presented here is based, in part, on the report entitled *Geologic Hazards Evaluation and Geotechnical Investigation Report Proposed Cal Fire Growlersburg Conservation Camp* (Kleinfelder 2008) and the *Limited Geotechnical Engineering Report* (Wallace-Kuhl & Associates 2020). These reports are included with this Initial Study as *Appendix F*.

4.7.1 Environmental Setting

4.7.1.1 Geomorphic Setting

The site and surrounding area are generally characterized by gently rolling topography. The Project Site sits at the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This part of the Sierran foothills is characterized by Late Paleozoic and Mesozoic age metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks. These rocks originated as ocean sediments and volcanic flow rocks on oceanic terrains west of the current Sierra Nevada mountain range. Beginning in the early Mesozoic, these ocean deposits moved west and were both subducted beneath and accreted onto the North American continent. The resulting plate collision and accretion produced the long north to northwest trending sequences of metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks that form most of the Sierra Foothills. Further broad tilting of the Sierra Nevada over the last 10 million years, resulting from uplift along the eastern Sierra Nevada escarpment where much steeper slopes prevail, has further folded and deformed these rocks. During the Oligocene and Paleocene Epochs, large river systems flowing west from the higher elevations of the ancient Sierra Nevada mountain range carved valleys in which alluvial deposits were formed. These alluvial deposits and portions of the metamorphic rocks were subsequently covered by volcanic flow rocks, including lava flows, ash flows, and volcanic mud flows during the Miocene epoch. Because these volcanic deposits were more resistant to erosion than the surrounding rocks, they remained as the relocated rivers eroded the surrounding rock. This resulted in inverted topography with the former valley bottoms, which had been filled in by sediment and volcanic flow rocks, now forming the ridges. Where the younger volcanic flow rocks and ancient river deposits are absent the metamorphic rocks predominate.

4.7.1.2 Soils

According to the NRCS Web Soil Survey website (2021a), there are three soil types in the Project Area:

Boomer gravelly loam and Boomer very rocky loam are very similar, well-drained soil types found on foothills and in mountainous terrain. Slopes range from 3 to 30 percent. These soils are both derived from metavolcanic and igneous parent rock. Their upper two inches are humus composed of arboreal litter; below this, it is gravelly to sandy gravelly loam, and clay content increases up to 47 inches. Boomer soils from 47 to 74 inches are mainly weathered greenstone. These two types of Boomer soils vary only in the content of parent rock they carry.

Auburn soils are very rocky silt loam found on 2 to 30 percent hill and mountain backslopes. They are derived from weathered amphibolite schist, moderately deep, and well drained. The upper 14 inches are a silt loam that transitions to weathered amphibolite schist from 14 to 24 inches.

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4.7.1.3 Naturally Occurring Asbestos

Asbestos is a term given to a group of naturally occurring, fibrous minerals that possess unique flexible yet heat resistant and high tensile strength properties. Naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) minerals, formerly a valuable mineral resource in California and often associated with serpentinite (the state rock), were mined in the western Sierra Foothills and commonly used as a heat insulator material and in automotive brake linings until the mid-1970s when asbestos was discovered to be harmful to humans if inhaled over long exposure periods. NOA minerals remain present in certain natural environments and, when disturbed or agitated severely by activities such as excavation and earthwork, quarrying, and/or use as unpaved road surfacing, the asbestos fibers can become airborne and a potential hazard.

Minerals known to contain asbestos-quality (i.e., asbestiform) fibers include ultramafic minerals of the amphibole group and phyllosilicates (Deer 1975). Fibrous varieties of the amphibole group include the more common tremolite and actinolite, and amosite (asbestiform grunerite), crocidolite (asbestiform riebeckite), and anthophyllite whose occurrence is exceedingly rare in the United States (Bates 1969). Serpentine is a phyllosilicate that occurs in the platy variety (antigorite) and chrysotile is the asbestiform variety (Hurlbut 1971) and is the most common variety of commercially-mined asbestos minerals. Rock types associated with these minerals are accordingly known as amphibolites (i.e., more than > 10 percent amphibole minerals) or serpentinites (i.e. > 10 percent serpentine minerals), respectively. Both of these rock types are ultramafic rocks.

The locations of ultramafic rocks most likely to contain NOA have been generally mapped across the state by the California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG, Churchill and Hill 2000) and, in the vicinity of the Project Site, are generally restricted to the metavolcanic, gabbroic, and ultramafic rocks of the Foothill Metamorphic Belt (FMB). NOA are also known to occur as a result of hydrothermal alteration along pre-existing fractures, such as fault splays comprising the Foothills Fault System which is present within the FMB. Although not unilaterally true for the entire FMB, NOA tend to occur within 1,500 feet of significant fault zones and/or within these three geologic rock types.

According to Jennings (1994), the Project Site is located in the FMB and, according to Kohler (1983), the site is located atop metavolcanic rocks of the Calaveras Complex. Rocks likely to contain NOA have been mapped throughout El Dorado County by the CDMG (Churchill 2000). Additionally, areas more likely to contain NOA, and faults within the western slope area of El Dorado County, have been mapped in a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database by the El Dorado County Environmental Management Department (EDCEMD) (Bruyn 2005). Based on the information presented on the published CDMG and EDCEMD maps, the site location is not considered to be within an area likely to contain NOA and, as shown on Plate 7 in *Appendix F*, the nearest mapped locations considered likely to contain NOA are approximately 2.1 miles (3.4 km) to the west-southwest and 2.5 miles (4.0 km) to the east of the site, respectively. The nearest mapped fault splay considered as a potential source for NOA is located approximately 1.1 miles (1.8 km) to the southwest of the site (Plate 7 in *Appendix F*).

Unpaved walkways at the site were found to be surfaced with crushed rock materials that appear to be derived from serpentine rock. Additionally, several stockpiles of rock fragments and crushed imported

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aggregate/rock materials containing serpentine rock were also observed at the site during the investigation. As noted above, serpentine rock commonly contains asbestiform minerals.

4.7.2 Regulatory Setting

Laws and regulations relevant to the Proposed Project are presented below.

4.7.2.1 State

Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (PRC, §§ 2621-2630).

This Act requires that "sufficiently active" and "well-defined" earthquake fault zones be delineated by the State Geologist and prohibits locating structures for human occupancy on active and potentially active surface faults. (Note that since only those potentially active faults that have a relatively high potential for ground rupture are identified as fault zones; not all potentially active faults are zoned under the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, as designated by the State of California.)

California Building Code (CCR, Title 23)

The California Building Code (CBC) provides a minimum standard for building design, which is based on the Uniform Building Code, but is modified for conditions unique to California. The CBC is selectively adopted by local jurisdictions, based on local conditions. The CBC contains requirements pertaining to multiple activities, including excavation, site demolition, foundations and retaining walls, grading activities including drainage and erosion control, and construction of pipelines alongside existing structures.

4.7.3 Geology and Soils (VII) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Less than significant impact.

i) and ii)

The Project Site is located in a region with many active, potentially active, and inactive faults. Faults within the region are shown on Plate 4 in *Appendix F* based upon fault locations and data indicated by the Fault Activity Map of California (Jennings 1994; 2005), the Digital Database of Quaternary and Younger Faults from the Fault Activity Map of California (Bryant 2005), and the Quaternary Fault and Fold Database of the United States (USGS 2006) compiled in a GIS database. Several of the major or active fault zones in the region shown on Plate 4 of *Appendix F* are listed below (from west to east) along with their noted age of recent movement (Bryant 2005; Jennings 1994, 2005; USGS 2006):

- Green Valley-Concord Fault (Historic) -82± miles (132± km) southwest;
- Coast Ranges-Sierran Block Boundary Zone (Great Valley Fault Zone, Segments 3 and 4) (Historic) -66± miles (106± km) west;
- Mohawk Valley Fault Zone (Quaternary) -50± miles (82± km) northeast;
- Tahoe-Sierra Frontal Fault Zone (Quaternary-Holocene) -40± miles (64± km) east;
- East Tahoe Fault (Quaternary) -44± miles (71 ± km) east;
- Genoa Fault/Carson Range Fault (Holocene-Historic) -55± miles (89± km) east.

In addition to the major and active faults listed above and shown on Plate 4 of *Appendix F*, the San Andreas Fault Zone and the Hayward-Rodgers Creek Fault Zone are regional active major fault zones with historic seismicity and ground rupture, and are located approximately 121 miles (195 km) and 102 miles (164 km) to the west of the site, respectively.

The Project Site is located in the area of the Foothills Fault System. Although there remains considerable controversy among geologists regarding the activity of the Foothill Fault System, historic seismicity (primarily low to moderate intensity events) aligns well with portions of this system and suggests that the system of faults is at least capable of generating small earthquakes at depth. Ground rupture occurred during the 1975 Oroville earthquake along the Cleveland Hill Fault within the northern extent of the Foothill Fault System. Several smaller and/or less active faults and fault zones comprising the greater Foothill Fault System are located in the vicinity of the site and include the Spenceville Fault, the Dewitt Fault, the Bear Mountain Fault Zone (including the Rescue, Maidu East, Youngs Creek, Waters Peak, and Bowie Flat Faults), and the Melones Fault Zone (including the Gillis Hill and the Foresthill-Melones Faults). The closest fault to the Project Site mapped as showing movement as recent as the Quaternary period is the Rescue Fault, located about 10 miles (16 km) southwest (Jennings, 1994, 2005).

An aerial photograph of the Project Area was reviewed to evaluate photo-interpretations of potential geologic and fault conditions. This aerial photograph review did not identify features that might represent geologic and/or fault conditions within or trending towards the Proposed Project Area and is considered less than significant. No mitigation is required.

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iii)

Soil liquefaction is a condition where saturated, granular soils undergo a substantial loss of strength and deformation due to pore pressure increase resulting from cyclic stress application induced by earthquakes. In the process, the soil acquires mobility sufficient to permit both horizontal and vertical movements if the soil mass is not confined. Soils most susceptible to liquefaction are saturated, loose, clean, uniformly graded, and fine grained sand deposits. If liquefaction occurs, foundations resting on or within the liquefiable layer may undergo settlements. This will result in reduction of foundation stiffness and capacities.

According to the Geotechnical Report, the site area is not prone to intense seismic activity likely to produce ground shaking severe enough to induce liquefaction. The provision of dense and compacted engineered fill as recommended herein should provide materials supporting structures that are not considered to be susceptible to liquefaction. The native clayey subgrade soils and underlying bedrock at the site are not considered to be susceptible to liquefaction, and saturated conditions at shallow depths were neither encountered during field exploration nor are anticipated to develop within the soils and bedrock underlying the site. Therefore, liquefaction should not be a concern for this site, and the potential for liquefaction at the site is considered to be minimal.

Lateral spreading is a potential hazard commonly associated with liquefaction where extensional ground cracking and settlement occur as a response to lateral migration of subsurface liquefiable material. These phenomena typically occur adjacent to free faces such as slopes and creek channels. While there are slopes in the project area, based on the soil and bedrock conditions encountered during our investigation and minimal potential for liquefaction at the site, the potential for lateral spreading to take place at the site is considered minimal and is considered less than significant. No mitigation is required.

iv)

The Project Site is located within the rolling and hilly topography of the Sierra Nevada foothills. The site topography is similar, with slight to moderate inclines typically no steeper than about 6(h): 1 (v) for natural slopes. Existing cut and fill slopes at the site are typically less than about 10 to 15 feet in height, with maximum slope inclinations on the order of 1(h):1(v). The site is not located within an area designated as a landslide hazard zone by the California Geological Survey. No evidence of current or past landslides or slope instability was observed on the site or in the immediate Project Site vicinity.

The Project design indicates that new and steepened cut sections and new building pad fill embankments will be retained by walls up to 17 feet in height. Other new and existing cut and fill slopes up to 10 feet in height will not be retained by walls. Recommendations for design and construction of temporary and permanent cut and fill slopes and retaining walls are provided in Section 5 of the Geotechnical Report. (*Appendix F*)

Based on the Geotechnical Report by Kleinfelder, the potential for landsliding or slope instability at the site is considered to be low provided that slopes and retaining walls are designed and constructed in accordance with the recommendations provided herein. Therefore, landslides or slope instabilities at the Project Site are considered less than significant. No mitigation is required.

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Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact.

BMPs are included as part of the SWPPP prepared for the Proposed Project and would be implemented to manage erosion and the loss of topsoil during construction-related activities (see Section 4.9 *Hydrology and Water Quality*). Soil erosion impacts would be reduced to a less than significant impact. No mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in onsite or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact.

The current soil and ground conditions are not likely to be susceptible to liquefaction and coseismic compaction. Construction would be consistent with the Project's Geotechnical report, which includes recommendations designed to address and mitigate site-specific soil conditions. Therefore, related impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact.

The native near-surface soils encountered in test borings and test pits at the site consist of typically cohesive clayey and silty residual soils with low to high plasticity and varying amounts of sand and gravel. These near-surface soils typically extend to depths of between about 3 and 20 feet below existing site grades and overlie weathered rock at depth. Results of laboratory testing to determine the fines content (percent passing No. 200 sieve) and Atterberg Limits of samples obtained from the near-surface clayey and silty soils indicate fines contents ranging from 56 to 87 percent, Liquid Limits ranging from 33 to 68,

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and Plasticity Indices ranging from 11 to 44. These results are generally indicative of soils with low to moderate expansion potential. The results of Expansion Index testing performed on re-molded samples of the near-surface soils obtained from Test Pits TP-2 and TP-19 indicate low to high expansion potentials, with Expansion Index values of 49 and 101 determined for samples re-molded to dry densities of approximately 84 and 96 pounds per cubic foot, respectively. Based on the results of the laboratory testing, the near-surface site soils would be considered expansive in accordance with Section 1802.3.2 of the CBC (2007). In addition, the NRCS (1998) has mapped soils at the site characterized as having low to moderate shrink swell potential and a maximum plasticity index of 25. The underlying weathered bedrock materials appear to have low expansion potential (Wallace-Kuhl 2020).

Construction would be consistent with the Project's Geotechnical Report, which includes recommendations designed to address and mitigate site-specific soil conditions. Therefore, related impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No impact.

The Project Site currently has a sewer treatment system in place and would not be redesigned. The Proposed Project will not require the use of new septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, there would be no impact and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.

A records search was run through the University of California Museum of Paleontology (UCMP) (Appendix E). The UCMP records search focused on the Calaveras Complex. Schweickert et al. (1977) noted that there have been a few fossil occurrences reported where its metasedimentary limestones contain foraminifera (fusulinids, neoschwagerinids, textulariids), solitary horn (rugose) corals, and crinoid stems. The UCMP database records 13 Calaveras fossil localities, three in El Dorado County, six in Amador County, one in each of Butte, Placer, and Plumas counties, and another in an unidentified county, but only two corals are identified. None of these 13 UCMP localities is within five miles of the Growlersburg site. In addition, the database lists 43 vertebrate and 13 plant localities in the Mehrten Formation, all located more than 40

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miles from the Project Site. No significant paleontological resources have been found in the Calaveras Complex, which is the only unit that will be impacted by Project-related construction activities. Although paleontological resources are not anticipated, unknown resources could be present within the Project Site. Therefore, implementation of Mitigation Measure **GEO-1** would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

4.7.4 Mitigation Measures

GEO-1: Discovery of Unknown Paleontological Resources.

- If any paleontological resources (i.e., fossils) are found during Project construction, construction shall be halted immediately in the subject area and the area shall be isolated using orange or yellow fencing until CAL FIRE is notified and the area is cleared for future work. A qualified paleontologist shall be retained to evaluate the find and recommend appropriate treatment of the inadvertently discovered paleontological resources. In addition, in the event of an inadvertent find, sediment samples should be collected and processed to determine the small fossil potential on the Project Site. If CAL FIRE resumes work in a location where paleontological remains have been discovered and cleared, CAL FIRE will have a paleontologist onsite to observe any continuing excavation to confirm that no additional paleontological resources are in the area. Any fossil materials uncovered during mitigation activities should be deposited in an accredited and permanent scientific institution for the benefit of current and future generations.

4.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

This section is based on the findings of the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessment which includes modeling for greenhouse gas emissions (Appendix B).

4.8.1 Environmental Setting

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are released as byproducts of fossil fuel combustion, waste disposal, energy use, land use changes, and other human activities. This release of gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and chlorofluorocarbons, creates a blanket around the earth that allows light to pass through but traps heat at the surface, preventing its escape into space. While this is a naturally occurring process known as the greenhouse effect, human activities have accelerated the generation of GHGs beyond natural levels. The overabundance of GHGs in the atmosphere has led to an unexpected warming of the earth and has the potential to severely impact the earth's climate system.

Each GHG differs in its ability to absorb heat in the atmosphere based on the lifetime, or persistence, of the gas molecule in the atmosphere. CH₄ traps over 25 times more heat per molecule than CO₂, and N₂O absorbs 298 times more heat per molecule than CO₂. Often, estimates of GHG emissions are presented in carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e). Expressing GHG emissions in carbon dioxide equivalents takes the contribution of all GHG emissions to the greenhouse effect and converts them to a single unit equivalent to the effect that would occur if only CO₂ were being emitted.

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The local air quality agency regulating the MCAB is the EDCAQMD. The regional air pollution control officer for the basin. Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines thresholds for GHGs do not prescribe specific methodologies for performing an assessment, do not establish specific thresholds of significance, and do not mandate specific mitigation measures. Rather, the CEQA Guidelines emphasize the lead agency's discretion to determine the appropriate methodologies and thresholds of significance consistent with the manner in which other impact areas are handled in CEQA. With respect to GHG emissions, the CEQA Guidelines § 15064.4(a) states that lead agencies "shall make a good-faith effort, based to the extent possible on scientific and factual data, to describe, calculate or estimate" GHG emissions resulting from a project. The CEQA Guidelines note that an agency has the discretion to either quantify a project's GHG emissions or rely on a "qualitative analysis or other performance-based standards" (14 CCR 15064.4(b)). A lead agency may use a "model or methodology" to estimate GHG emissions and has the discretion to select the model or methodology it considers "most appropriate to enable decision makers to intelligently take into account the project's incremental contribution to climate change" (14 CCR 15064.4(c)). Section 15064.4(b) provides that the lead agency should consider the following when determining the significance of impacts from GHG emissions on the environment:

1. The extent a project may increase or reduce GHG emissions as compared to the existing environmental setting.
2. Whether the project emissions exceed a threshold of significance that the lead agency determines applies to the project.
3. The extent to which the project complies with regulations or requirements adopted to implement a statewide, regional, or local plan for the reduction or mitigation of GHG emissions (14 CCR 15064.4(b)).

In addition, Section 15064.7(c) of the CEQA Guidelines specifies that "[w]hen adopting or using thresholds of significance, a lead agency may consider thresholds of significance previously adopted or recommended by other public agencies, or recommended by experts, provided the decision of the lead agency to adopt such thresholds is supported by substantial evidence" (14 CCR 15064.7(c)). The CEQA Guidelines also clarify that the effects of GHG emissions are cumulative and should be analyzed in the context of CEQA's requirements for cumulative impact analysis (see CEQA Guidelines § 15130(f)). As a note, the CEQA Guidelines were amended in response to Senate Bill (SB) 97. In particular, the CEQA Guidelines were amended to specify that compliance with a GHG emissions reduction plan renders a cumulative impact insignificant.

Per CEQA Guidelines § 15064(h)(3), a project's incremental contribution to a cumulative impact can be found not cumulatively considerable if the project would comply with an approved plan or mitigation program that provides specific requirements that would avoid or substantially lessen the cumulative problem within the geographic area of the project. To qualify, such plans or programs must be specified in law or adopted by the public agency with jurisdiction over the affected resources through a public review process to implement, interpret, or make specific the law enforced or administered by the public agency. Examples of such programs include a "water quality control plan, air quality attainment or maintenance plan, integrated waste management plan, habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plans [and] plans or regulations for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions." Put another

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way, CEQA Guidelines § 15064(h)(3) allows a lead agency to make a finding of less than significant for GHG emissions if a project complies with adopted programs, plans, policies and/or other regulatory strategies to reduce GHG emissions.

The significance of the Project's GHG emissions is evaluated consistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.4(b)(2) by considering whether the Project complies with applicable plans, policies, regulations and requirements adopted to implement a statewide, regional, or local plan for the reduction or mitigation of GHG emissions. The EDCAQMD has not adopted a GHG significance threshold. Section 15064.7(c) of the CEQA Guidelines specifies that "[w]hen adopting or using thresholds of significance, a lead agency may consider thresholds of significance previously adopted or recommended by other public agencies, or recommended by experts, provided the decision of the lead agency to adopt such thresholds is supported by substantial evidence" (14 CCR 15064.7(c)). Thus, in the absence of any GHG emissions significance thresholds, the projected emissions are compared to the GHG thresholds recommended by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD), the air pollution control officer for Sacramento County. The SMAQMD thresholds of 1,100 metric tons of CO₂e annually for construction and 1,100 metric tons of CO₂e annually during operations are considered appropriate for the purposes of this analysis due to the proximities of Sacramento and El Dorado counties and the similarities between both geomorphic and urban patterns of the two neighboring air district jurisdictions. Therefore, the threshold used to analyze the Project is specific to the analysis herein and the lead agency retains the ability to develop and/or use different thresholds of significance for other projects in its capacity as lead agency and recognizing the need for the individual threshold to be tailored and specific to individual projects.

In *Center for Biological Diversity v. Department of Fish and Wildlife* (2015) 62 Cal. 4th 2014, 213, 221, 227, following its review of various potential GHG thresholds proposed in an academic study [Crockett, Addressing the Significance of Greenhouse Gas Emissions: California's Search for Regulatory Certainty in an Uncertain World (July 2011), 4 Golden Gate U. Envtl. L. J. 203], the California Supreme Court identified the use of numeric bright-line thresholds as a potential pathway for compliance with CEQA GHG requirements. The study found numeric bright-line thresholds designed to determine when small projects were so small as to not cause a cumulatively considerable impact on global climate change was consistent with CEQA. Specifically, PRC section 21003(f) provides it is a policy of the state that "[a]ll persons and public agencies involved in the environmental review process be responsible for carrying out the process in the most efficient, expeditious manner in order to conserve the available financial, governmental, physical and social resources with the objective that those resources may be better applied toward the mitigation of actual significant effects on the environment." The Supreme Court-reviewed study noted, "[s]ubjecting the smallest projects to the full panoply of CEQA requirements, even though the public benefit would be minimal, would not be consistent with implementing the statute in the most efficient, expeditious manner. Nor would it be consistent with applying lead agencies' scarce resources toward mitigating actual significant climate change impacts" (Crockett, Addressing the Significance of Greenhouse Gas Emissions: California's Search for Regulatory Certainty in an Uncertain World (July 2011), 4 Golden Gate U. Envtl. L. J. 203, 221, 227.).

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4.8.2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions (VIII) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact.

4.8.2.1 Construction

Construction-related activities that would generate GHGs include worker commute trips, haul trucks carrying supplies and materials to and from the Project site, and off-road construction equipment (e.g., dozers, loaders, excavators). Table 4-9 illustrates the specific construction-generated GHG emissions that would result from construction of the Project.

Emissions Source	CO ₂ e (Metric Tons/Year)
Construction 2022	955
Construction 2023	900
<i>Potentially Significant Impact Threshold</i>	1,100
Exceed Significance Threshold?	No

Source: CalEEMod version 2016.3.2. Refer to Attachment B in *Appendix B* for Model Data Outputs.
Notes: Building construction, paving, and architectural coating assumed to occur simultaneously.

As shown in Table 3-14-9, Project construction would not result in the exceedance of 1,100 metric tons of CO₂e during any year of construction. Once construction is complete, the generation of these GHG emissions would cease. A less than significant impact would occur.

Furthermore, GHG emissions generated by the construction sector have been declining in recent years. For instance, construction equipment engine efficiency has continued to improve year after year. The first federal standards (Tier 1) for new off-road diesel engines were adopted in 1994 for engines over 50 horsepower (hp) and were phased in from 1996 to 2000. In 1996, a Statement of Principles pertaining to off-road diesel engines was signed between the USEPA, CARB, and engine makers (including Caterpillar, Cummins, Deere, Detroit Diesel, Deutz, Isuzu, Komatsu, Kubota, Mitsubishi, Navistar, New Holland, Wisconsin, and Yanmar). On August 27, 1998, the USEPA signed the final rule reflecting the provisions of the Statement of Principles. The 1998 regulation introduced Tier 1 standards for equipment under 50 hp and increasingly more stringent Tier 2 and Tier 3 standards for all equipment with phase-in schedules from 2000 to 2008. As a result, all off-road, diesel-fueled construction equipment manufactured in 2006 or later has been built to Tier 3 standards. Tier 3 engine standards reduce precursor and subset GHG emissions such as nitrogen oxide by as much as 60 percent. On May 11, 2004, the USEPA signed the final rule

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introducing Tier 4 emission standards, which were phased in from 2008 to 2015. The Tier 4 standards require that emissions of nitrogen oxide be further reduced by about 90 percent. All off-road, diesel-fueled construction equipment manufactured in 2015 or later will be built to Tier 4 standards.

In addition, the CEC recently released the 2019 Building Energy Efficiency Standards contained in the CCR, Title 24, Part 6 (also known as the California Energy Code). The 2019 updates to the Building Energy Efficiency Standards focus on several key areas to improve the energy efficiency of newly constructed buildings and additions, and alterations to existing buildings. For instance, effective January 1, 2017, owners/builders of construction projects have been required to divert (recycle) 65 percent of construction waste materials generated during the project construction phase. This requirement greatly reduces the generation of GHG emissions by reducing decomposition at landfills, which is a source of CH₄, and reducing demand for natural resources.

4.8.2.2 Operations

Operation of the Project would result in a decrease in the amount of GHG emissions currently emitted under current operations. Table 3-24-10 summarizes all the direct and indirect annual GHG emissions associated with the Project in comparison to existing conditions.

Table 4-10. Operational-Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions	
Emissions Source	CO₂e (Metric Tons/ Year)
Proposed Project Operational Emissions	
Area	0
Energy	223
Mobile	74
Waste	103
Water	37
Total Baseline Emissions	437
Area	0
Energy	210
Mobile	66
Waste	103
Water	29
Total Project Emissions	408
Emissions Reduction from Baseline	
Area	0
Energy	-13
Mobile	-8
Waste	0
Water	-8
Total Reduced Emissions	-29
Potentially Significant Impact Threshold	1,100
Exceed Significance Threshold?	No

Source: CalEEMod version 2016.3.2. Refer to Attachment B in *Appendix B* for Model Data Outputs.

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As shown in Table 3-24-10, Project operations would result in a decrease of approximately 29 metric tons of CO₂e annually compared with existing conditions and would not exceed 1,100 metric tons annually. A less than significant impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No Impact.

El Dorado County does not currently have an adopted plan for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. However, the State of California promulgates several mandates and goals to reduce statewide GHG emissions, including the goal to reduce statewide GHG emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030 (SB 32). Project-generated GHG emissions would not exceed GHG significance thresholds, which were prepared with the purpose of complying with statewide GHG emission reduction goals. In addition, the Project would not conflict with the 2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) or the county's General Plan, as shown.

4.8.2.3 2020 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/ Sustainable Communities Strategy

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) adopted the MTP/SCS in 2019. The MTP/SCS sets the GHG reduction goal of 19 percent below 2005 levels by 2035. Land use information is generally used to inform long-range planning documents, including the MTP/SCS. If a given project is consistent with the land use designation, the project is generally consistent with the MTP/SCS GHG emission projections and would not increase emissions beyond what is anticipated in the MTP/SCS, or inhibit the county from reaching its reduction targets. The Proposed Project is consistent with the existing land use designation of the Camp facility and is not proposing any changes to land use designations. Further, while the Proposed Project would generate GHG emissions, those emissions would be less than the baseline existing conditions, resulting in a decrease of emissions due to the proposed modernization of outdated facilities. Since the Project would result in a decrease of GHG emissions compared with existing conditions, the Project would not obstruct the achievement of the MTP/SCS emission reduction targets.

4.8.2.4 El Dorado County General Plan

The Project is consistent with the Land Use Element of the General Plan. As discussed previously, the Project proposes the demolition and replacement of existing buildings, with no land use changes or additional staffing or increase in inmate population. Therefore, the Project is consistent with this General Plan land use designation and would not exceed the population or job growth projections used by the EDCAQMD to develop its Air Quality Attainment Plans.

The Project would not conflict with any regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGS. No impact would occur.

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4.8.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

A material is considered hazardous if it appears on a list of hazardous materials prepared by a federal, state, or local agency or if it has characteristics defined as hazardous by such an agency. A hazardous material is defined by the California Health and Safety Code, § 25501 as follows:

"Hazardous material" means any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. "Hazardous materials" include, but are not limited to, hazardous substances, hazardous waste, and any material that a handler or the administering agency has a reasonable basis for believing that it would be injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment.

A hazardous material is defined in 22 CCR § 662601.10 as follows:

A substance or combination of substances which, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics, may either (1) cause, or significantly contribute to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or (2) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or environment when improperly treated, stored, transported or disposed of or otherwise managed.

Transporters of hazardous waste in California are subject to many federal and state regulations. They must register with the California Department of Health Services (DHS) and ensure that vehicle and waste container operators have been trained in the proper handling of hazardous waste. Vehicles used for the transportation of hazardous waste must pass an annual inspection by the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Transporters must allow the CHP and/or the DHS to inspect its vehicles and must make certain required inspection records available to both agencies. The transport of hazardous materials that are not wastes is regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation through national safety standards.

Other risks resulting from hazardous materials include the use of these materials in local industry, businesses and agricultural production. The owner or operator of any business or entity that handles a hazardous material above threshold quantities is required, by state and federal laws, to submit a business plan to the local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). The El Dorado County Environmental Management Department is responsible for ensuring compliance with applicable state laws, regulation, and County ordinances concerning many important public health issues.

Under Government Code Section 65962.5, both the DTSC and the SWRCB are required to maintain lists of sites known to have hazardous substances present in the environment. Both agencies maintain up-to-date lists on their websites. The Project site is not listed by the DTSC or SWRCB as a hazardous substances site on the list of hazardous waste sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 (Cortese List).

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4.9.1 Environmental Setting

The Project site is located 5540 Longview Lane Georgetown, CA 95634, and is currently used by CAL FIRE as a Conservation Camp. The site includes an administration Building, inmate dorm building, inmate recreation building, inmate hobby building, CDCR/CDF barracks building, inmate kitchen and mess hall, inmate staging area (with Restroom and showers), warehouse, vehicle storage buildings, shops, sawmill shed, sawmill building, generate/pump/storage/building, covered vehicle rack, and vehicle wash recycling. The majority of the existing site is characterized as developed forest land surrounded by undeveloped and rural residential forest. The property is bounded on all sides by a chain link fence. The site gently slopes north to south.

4.9.2 Hazards and Hazardous Materials (IX) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than significant impact.

Implementation of the Project would not require additional transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials above current site use. Routine transportation of diesel and gasoline fuels would occur in order to refill existing storage tanks. Transportation of these fuels would be via approved fuel transport trucks that have been licensed specifically for this purpose. The transport of hazardous materials by truck is regulated by federal safety standards under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The CHP is responsible for tanker truck inspections and permitting within the state. Because of existing requirements for the use, transport, and disposal of propane, diesel and gasoline, the potential for significant hazards to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous fuels is less than significant.

Additionally, CAL FIRE would comply with all federal, state, and local regulations regarding the storage of hazardous waste and all onsite hazardous waste handling and storage would occur within the specially designed hazardous waste storage building which would be equipped with secondary containment.

Other hazardous material use may include lubricants, fuels, and solvents in relatively small quantities. Because all on- and offsite storage and use of hazardous materials would be conducted consistent with applicable regulations, use of these materials would not create a significant hazard to the public and impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation would be required.

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Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than significant impact.

As stated above in (a), the Proposed Project site does include existing fuel storage tanks that will be replaced as part of the project. Additionally, the project involves replacement and upgrades to the existing facility to improve safety and meet current building code requirements. Hazardous materials, such as diesel fuel and oil, would be used during construction, demolition, and operation and maintenance at the Project site. The release of any hazardous substance to the environment would be prevented through the implementation of BMPs listed in the SWPPP and SPCC Plan. As described above in the discussion under a), routine use, storage, and handling of hazardous substances would be conducted in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. Hazards related to building and vehicle maintenance materials would be present at the Project site.

Because of existing requirements for the use, transport, and storage, of diesel and gasoline the potential for significant hazards to the public, construction workers, and environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment would be reduced to a less than significant impact.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than significant impact.

There are no schools located within ¼ mile of the Project site and the closest school is over two miles east of the project site. Please see the response to b) above. Impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation would be required.

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Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No impact.

ECORP conducted a search of the DTSC's Hazardous Waste and Substance List (Cortese List), EnviroStor online database, and the SWRCB's GeoTracker online database for the Project Area and did not identify any potential or confirmed active state or federal Superfund sites located within or immediately adjacent to the Project site. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous material sites. No impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No impact.

The closest airport to the Project site is Georgetown Airport, approximately one mile north of the Project site. The Proposed Project will not change these uses of the project site and would not add additional inmates or personal, therefore there will be no additional hazards to people residing or working in the Proposed Project Area. No impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No Impact.

Construction of the Proposed Project would not interfere with the any emergency response and recovery plans and would enhance ability to respond to emergency situations locally. No impact would occur.

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Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than significant impact.

According to the *Draft Fire Hazard Severity Zones* in State and Local Responsibility Area Maps published by CAL FIRE, the Project site is located in a high hazard severity zone; however, as described in the Project Description, the facility is designed and equipped to respond to both natural and manmade disasters (including fire). Additionally, the proposed project will not add additional buildings or structures but will be replacing existing structures in like-kind. New building materials will be used that are designed to be fire resistant (especially when compared to existing older buildings). Therefore, the Proposed Project will have a less than significant impact on increasing the wildfire risk within the area or further exposing people or structures to additional significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires.

4.9.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

4.10.1 Regulatory Setting

4.10.1.1 Federal

Clean Water Act

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) was enacted with the primary purpose of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. The CWA also directs states to establish water quality standards for all waters of the United States and to review and update such standards on a triennial basis. Section 319 mandates specific actions for the control of pollution from nonpoint sources.

The USEPA has delegated responsibility for implementation of portions of the CWA, including water quality control planning and control programs, such as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program, to the SWRCB and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs).

Section 303(c)(2)(b) of the CWA requires states to adopt water quality standards for all surface waters of the United States based on the water body's designated beneficial use. Where multiple uses exist, water quality standards must protect the most sensitive use. Water quality standards are typically numeric, although narrative criteria based upon biomonitoring methods may be employed where numerical standards cannot be established or where they are needed to supplement numeric standards. Water quality standards applicable to the Proposed Project are listed in the basin plan (RWQCB 2018).

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National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

The goal of the NPDES diffuse source regulations is to improve the quality of stormwater discharged to receiving waters to the "maximum extent practicable" through the use of BMPs. The NPDES permit system was established in the CWA to regulate point source discharges (a municipal or industrial discharge at a specific location or pipe) and certain types of diffuse source dischargers. As defined in the federal regulations, nonpoint sources are generally exempt from NPDES permit program requirements. Nonpoint pollution sources are diffuse and originate over a wide area rather than from a definable point. Nonpoint pollution often enters receiving water in the form of surface runoff and is not conveyed by way of pipelines or discrete conveyances. Urban stormwater runoff and construction site runoff, however, are diffuse sources regulated under the NPDES permit program because they discharge to receiving waters at discrete locations in a confined conveyance system. Sections 401 and 402 of the CWA contain general requirements regarding NPDES permits.

Section 307 of the CWA describes the factors that the USEPA must consider in setting effluent limits for priority pollutants. For diffuse-source discharges (e.g., municipal stormwater and construction runoff), the NPDES program establishes a comprehensive stormwater quality program to manage urban stormwater and minimize pollution of the environment to the maximum extent practicable. The NPDES program consists of:

1. characterizing receiving water quality,
2. identifying harmful constituents,
3. targeting potential sources of pollutants, and
4. implementing a comprehensive Stormwater Management Program.

State implementation of the NPDES program as it relates to the Proposed Project is discussed below under state and regional regulations.

National Toxics Rule and California Toxics Rule

In 1992, pursuant to the CWA, USEPA promulgated the National Toxics Rule (NTR) to establish numeric criteria for priority toxic pollutants for California. The NTR established water quality standards for 42 priority pollutants not covered at the time under California's statewide water quality regulations. In May 2000, USEPA issued the California Toxics Rule (CTR), which promulgated numeric criteria for additional priority pollutants. The CTR documentation (Volume 65, pages 31682–31719 of the Federal Register [65 FR 31682–31719], May 18, 2000, along with amendments in February 2001 "carried forward" the previously promulgated criteria of the NTR, thereby providing a single document listing of water quality criteria for 126 priority pollutants for California surface waters.

Federal Antidegradation Policy

The federal antidegradation policy is designed to protect existing uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect existing uses and provide protection for higher quality and national water resources. The federal policy directs states to adopt a statewide policy that includes the following primary provisions (40 Code of Federal Regulations 131.12):

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1. Existing instream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected.
2. Where the quality of waters exceeds levels necessary to support propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and recreation in and on the water, that quality shall be maintained and protected unless the state finds, after full satisfaction of the intergovernmental coordination and public participation provisions of the state's continuing planning process, that allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located.
3. Where high quality waters constitute an outstanding National resource, such as waters of national and state parks and wildlife refuges and waters of exceptional recreational or ecological significance, that water quality shall be maintained and protected.

4.10.1.2 State

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act is California's statutory authority for the protection of water quality. Under the act, California must adopt water quality policies, plans, and objectives (synonymous with the term "criteria" used by USEPA) that ensure beneficial uses of state waters are reasonably protected. The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act requires the nine RWQCBs to adopt water quality control plans ("basin plans") that define the beneficial uses of the water bodies throughout the region to be protected, the water quality objectives necessary for reasonable protection of the beneficial uses, and a program of implementation for achieving the water quality objectives. In addition, the act authorizes the SWRCB and RWQCBs to issue and enforce waste discharge requirements to surface waters and land. Rector Creek is within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay RWQCB.

Water Quality Control Plan for San Francisco Bay

The *Water Quality Control Plan for San Francisco Bay* (2018) defines the beneficial uses, water quality objectives, implementation programs, and surveillance and monitoring programs for waters of San Francisco Bay and its tributary basins. The basin plan contains specific numeric water quality objectives for bacteria, dissolved oxygen, pH, pesticides, electrical conductivity, temperature, turbidity, and trace elements, as well as numerous narrative water quality objectives, which are applicable to certain water bodies or portions of water bodies.

Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Storm Water Permit for General Construction Activity

The SWRCB has issued a general NPDES permit for stormwater discharges associated with construction activity of greater than one acre in size, including Linear Underground Projects —Order 2009-0009-DWQ, as amended by Orders 2010-0014-DWQ and 2012-0006-DWQ (General Construction Permit). The General Construction Permit requires the preparation of a SWPPP that identifies and describes the BMPs to be implemented at construction sites to control pollution from stormwater runoff. Coverage is obtained by submitting a Notice of Intent, risk assessment, post-construction calculations, a site map, the SWPPP, and

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a signed certification statement by the legally responsible person to the SWRCB prior to construction. Because the Project does not result in 1-acre of ground disturbance, a SWPPP is not required.

California Antidegradation Policy

The SWRCB (State Board Resolution No. 68-16) adopted the California Antidegradation Policy, otherwise known as the Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Water in California, in 1968. Unlike the Federal Antidegradation Policy, the California Antidegradation Policy applies to all waters of the state, not just surface waters. The policy requires that, with limited exceptions, whenever the existing quality of a water body is better than the quality established in individual basin plans, such high quality must be maintained and discharges to that water body must not unreasonably affect any present or anticipated beneficial use of the water resource.

4.10.1.3 Local

The El Dorado County Building and Safety Services Department issues grading permits for work to regulate and oversee activities that could, among other things, degrade water quality within the local environment.

4.10.1.4 CON-48: Regional Hydrology

The site is located within the South Fork American Watershed, which is part of the larger American River Watershed. The American River drainage covers 1,900 square miles of the Tahoe and El Dorado National Forests, including the Granite Chief Wilderness and Desolation Wilderness. Flowing west from the peaks of the northern Sierra Nevada, west of Lake Tahoe, its streams gradually converge into the South, Middle and North Forks of the American River. This river supports mining, hydroelectric generation, timber cultivation, and many forms of recreation. The South Fork Watershed of the American River is 90 miles long, with an 850-square-mile watershed. It originates in the high Sierra in the El Dorado National Forest. The river flows west, receiving Silver Creek, a major tributary, and flows past the town of Coloma where it then turns southwest and continues into Folsom Reservoir. It is the most heavily used (industrial use) fork, with 11 hydroelectric plants operated by Sacramento Municipal Utility District, El Dorado Irrigation District, PG&E, and Rock Creek Powerhouse.

4.10.1.5 Site Hydrology and On-Site Drainage

The Project Site would maintain existing grades. Generally, the site currently slopes from north to south. A network of new storm drain piping will connect storm drain inlets and subdrains throughout the Project Area to collect anticipated runoff. All roof drains will be hard piped to the storm drain system. It is proposed that the storm drains will connect to outfalls and drain across the natural grade to the south, similar to the current discharge patterns.

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4.10.2 Hydrology and Water Quality (X) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than significant impact.

The majority of the precipitation for the area occurs during the winter months; however, adverse storm events can also occur outside of the winter. During construction of the Proposed Project, impacts to water resources could occur without proper controls to protect water quality and reduce impacts to soil erosion. Soil can be loosened during demolition, fill and grading, paving, and tree removal processes. Loosened soils and spills of fluids or fuels from construction vehicles and equipment or miscellaneous construction materials and debris could degrade surface and groundwater quality. A heavy rainfall event could cause pollutants to flow offsite and reach nearby surface water drainage facilities. The Project Site and area impacted would be more than one acre, making the Proposed Project subject to the requirements of the statewide NPDES stormwater permit for construction (Order 98-08-DWQ). A SWPPP, a required element of the NPDES, includes a listing of BMPs to prevent construction pollutants and products from violating water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. A SWPPP would be required for the Proposed Project.

Additionally, all operational activities would be performed consistent with water quality regulations and all hazardous material special use areas would be designed to protect against surface and groundwater contamination. CAL FIRE would comply with all federal, state, and local regulations regarding the storage of hazardous waste and all onsite hazardous waste storage would occur within the specially designed hazardous waste storage building, which would be equipped with secondary containment. Therefore, the Proposed Project will have a less than significant impact on water quality. No mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than significant impact.

Domestic water supply demands would not increase with the proposed improvements for the Project. The facility currently receives its domestic supply from the GDPUD, which uses surface water supplies to meet customer demands. Project implementation will not result in a substantial increase in impervious surfaces on the site. A network of new storm drain piping will connect storm drain inlets and subdrains throughout

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the Project Area to collect anticipated runoff. Piped drainage will discharge at the south end of the project site where it will flow in a southwesterly direction through natural drainage channels before entering one of multiple existing culverts at the south end of Longview Lane in order to discharge under the road. Downstream of the culverts the runoff continues to flow off site through existing, natural drainage channels in a southerly direction. When compared to current site conditions, the Proposed Project would not substantially increase the amount of impervious surface on the Project Site nor substantially interfere with groundwater recharge. As such, the Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on groundwater. No mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner that would:				
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding onsite or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than significant impact.

The Proposed Project will not alter the existing drainage pattern and surface runoff volumes of the site; therefore, the Proposed Project will have a less than significant impact to flood flows. No mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to Project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than significant impact.

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The Project Site is not located in an area protected by levees. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency maps, the Project Site is located in Zone X (area of minimal flood hazard). Additionally, The Project Site is neither located near any large bodies of water and is located inland, and not within a seiche, tsunami, or mudflow hazard area. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not be subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. A less than significant impact would occur. No mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No impact.

As stated above, the Proposed Project would be required to comply with SWPPP and NPDES regulations and would not obstruct or conflict with water quality control or sustainable groundwater management plans. No mitigation is required.

4.10.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.11 Land Use and Planning

4.11.1 Environmental Setting

The Project Site is located at 5540 Longview Lane, Georgetown, El Dorado County. The Project Site consists of forested mountain terrain with graded areas scattered throughout the facility and is currently being used to house an inmate population for emergency incidents, such as fires, floods, and earthquakes. The site is zoned as Residential Estate 5 acres and has a General Plan designation of Public Facilities. The facility is surrounded by rural residential properties. Directly north (approximately 1.5 miles) of the site is the Georgetown Airport. The surrounding area is characterized as rural residential (see Figure 4-1). The site is generally bounded by Longview Lane to the north with single-family residences beyond; an access road to some wastewater retention ponds (located south of and abutting the Project Area) traversing adjacent to and east of the Project Site with a single-family residence and Reservoir Road beyond; open space wooded forest land to the west with a scattering of single-family residences and various unpaved mountain roads beyond; and a wastewater retention pond to the south with a single-family residence and Longview Lane, which for the most part encircles the Project vicinity from Reservoir Road north of the site, meandering through the scattering of single-family residences surrounding the Project Site, and returning back to Reservoir Road beyond. The State of California and state-owned land, such as the CAL FIRE parcel, are not subject to local, city, or county land use and zoning regulations. However, the state is subject to the requirement under CEQA to assess Project-related impacts that may occur as a result of conflicts between existing and proposed land uses.

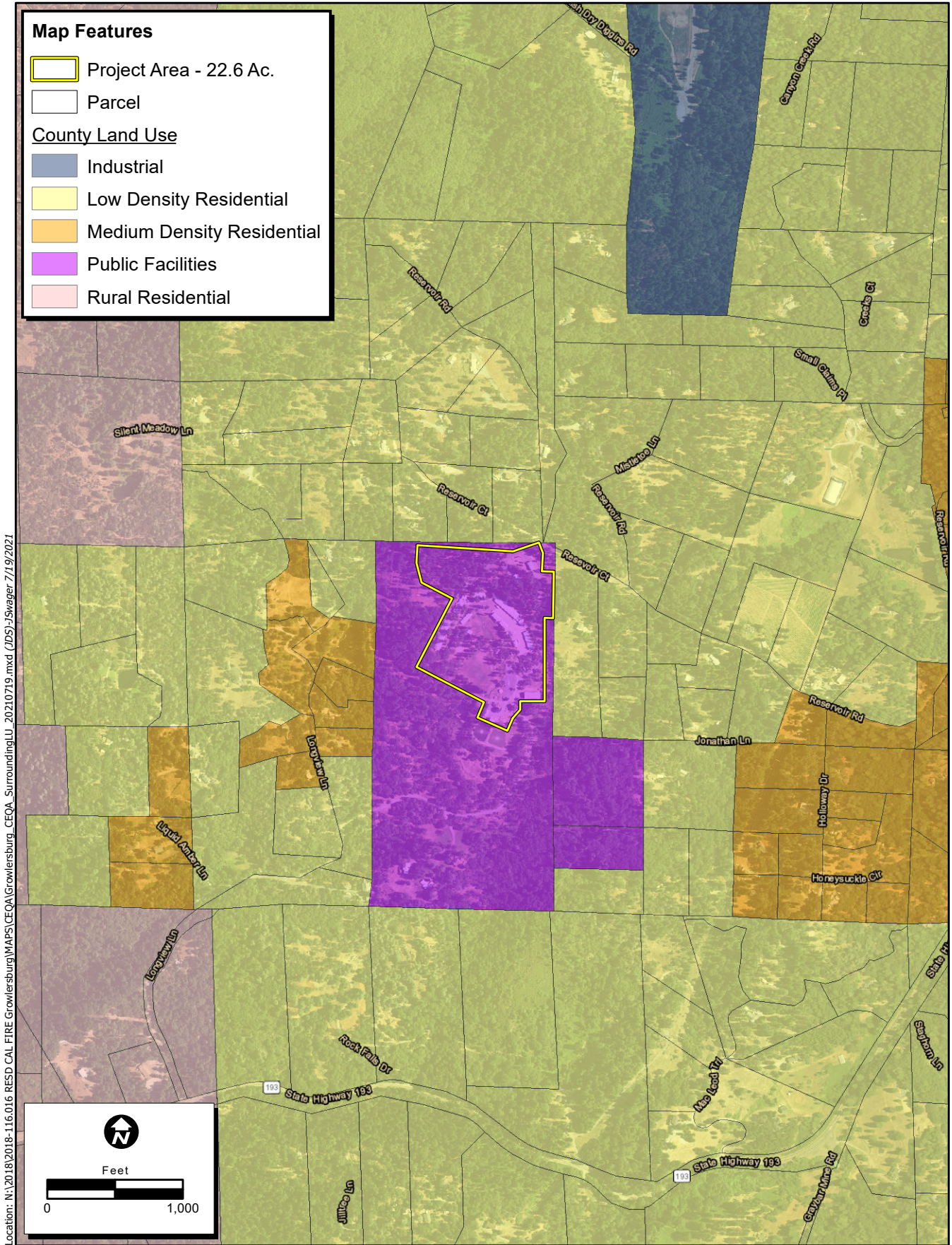


Figure 4-1. Surrounding Land Use

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4.11.2 Land Use and Planning (XI) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No Impact.

Projects, such as a railroad lines, major highways, or water canals, could physically divide an established community by removing existing roadway connections, walkways, bike paths, and other types of links between community areas. The Proposed Project involves upgrading an existing facility. Therefore, no removal of roadways or other connections to the surrounding community would occur. No impact will occur, and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No Impact.

The State of California and state-owned land, such as a CAL FIRE facility, are not subject to local city or county land use and zoning regulations. Although the state is not subject to local land use and zoning regulations, such regulations were considered in this IS/MND, and the Project as proposed does not appear to conflict with any local regulations. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no impact in this area. No mitigation is required.

4.11.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified and no mitigation measures are required.

4.12 Mineral Resources

4.12.1 Environmental Setting

Minerals are defined as any naturally occurring chemical elements or compounds, formed from inorganic processes and organic substances. Mappable minerals, or an "ore deposit," are defined as a deposit of ore or minerals having a value materially in excess of the cost of developing, mining, and processing the mineral and reclaiming the Project Area. The conservation, extraction, and processing of those mineral resources is essential to meeting the needs of society. El Dorado County contains a wide variety of mineral resources. Both the USGS and California Geological Survey have evaluated the potential locations and production capacity of various types of extractive resources throughout the county. Metallic mineral

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deposits, gold in particular, are considered the most significant extractive mineral resource and the 1849 California "Gold Rush" originated from gold discovered in El Dorado County. Other metallic minerals found in the county include silver, copper, nickel, chromite, zinc, tungsten, mercury, titanium, platinum, and iron. Nonmetallic mineral resources include building stone, limestone, slate, clay, marble, soapstone, sand, and gravel. (El Dorado County General Plan EIR 2003).

4.12.2 Regulatory Setting

4.12.2.1 Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) states that cities and counties must adopt an ordinance(s) "which establishes procedures for the review and approval of reclamation plans and the issuance of a permit to conduct surface mining operations" (PRC Section 2774). The intent of this legislation is to ensure the prevention or mitigation of the adverse environmental impacts of mining, the reclamation of mined lands, and the production and conservation of mineral resources are consistent with recreation, watershed, wildlife, and public safety objectives (PRC Section 2712).

SMARA requires the State Geologist to classify land into Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs), according to the known or inferred mineral potential of that land. The process is based solely on geology, without regard to existing land use or land ownership. The primary goal of mineral land classification is to ensure that the mineral potential of land is recognized by local government decision makers and considered before land use decisions, which could preclude mining, are made. Areas subject to California mineral land classification studies are divided into MRZ categories that reflect varying degrees of mineral potential:

- MRZ-1: Areas of no mineral resource significance
- MRZ-2: Areas of identified mineral resource significance
- MRZ-3: Areas of undetermined mineral resource significance
- MRZ-4: Areas of unknown mineral resource significance

Goals, programs, and policies that are applicable to the Proposed Project are listed below.

4.12.2.2 El Dorado County

Policy 7.2.3.3: Existing development (commercial, residential, and public facilities), as well as undeveloped private lands, shall be protected from significant adverse environmental effects caused by mining through use permit conditions, mitigation measures, and the Noise Element standards.

Policy 7.2.3.12: Except as provided for in Policy 2.2.2.7, zone changes removing the -MR Combining Zone District from the base zone district shall be considered by the County only when specific studies similar in nature to State Classification Reports prove that a significant mineral deposit no longer exists.

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4.12.3 Mineral Resources (XII) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No Impact.

According to Mineral Land Classification maps located on the DOC website, the Project Site is not located in an MRZ. The Proposed Project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. There are no mining activities being conducted on or near the site and no mining activities are planned for the site. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No Impact.

The Proposed Project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan, because no mining operations exist on or adjacent to the Project Site (El Dorado County 2003). The closest active mining operation is approximately three miles northeast of the Project Site, which is currently used as a conservation camp and will remain so following Project implementation. Therefore, no impact would occur.

4.12.4 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified and no mitigation measures are required.

4.13 Noise

This section is based on the analysis and recommendations presented in the Noise Impact Assessment prepared for the Proposed Project (ECORP 2021d, *Appendix G*).

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4.13.1 Environmental Setting

4.13.1.1 Noise Fundamentals

Noise is generally defined as sound that is loud, disagreeable, or unexpected. The selection of a proper noise descriptor for a specific source is dependent on the spatial and temporal distribution, duration, and fluctuation of the noise. The noise descriptors most often encountered when dealing with traffic, community and environmental noise include the average hourly noise level (in L_{eq}) and the average daily noise levels/community noise equivalent level (in L_{dn} /CNEL). The L_{eq} is a measure of ambient noise, while the L_{dn} and CNEL are measures of community noise. Each is applicable to this analysis and defined as follows:

- **Equivalent Noise Level** is the average acoustic energy content of noise for a stated period of time. Thus, the L_{eq} of a time-varying noise and that of a steady noise are the same if they deliver the same acoustic energy to the ear during exposure. For evaluating community impacts, this rating scale does not vary, regardless of whether the noise occurs during the day or the night.
- **Day-Night Average** is a 24-hour average L_{eq} with a 10 dBA (A-weighted decibel) “weighting” added to noise during the hours of 10:00 pm to 7:00 am to account for noise sensitivity in the nighttime. The logarithmic effect of these additions is that a 60 dBA 24-hour L_{eq} would result in a measurement of 66.4 dBA L_{dn} .
- **Community Noise Equivalent Level** is a 24-hour average L_{eq} with a 5 dBA weighting during the hours of 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm and a 10 dBA weighting added to noise during the hours of 10:00 pm to 7:00 am to account for noise sensitivity in the evening and nighttime, respectively.

Noise can be generated by a number of sources, including mobile sources, such as automobiles, trucks and airplanes, and stationary sources, such as construction sites, machinery, and industrial operations. Sound spreads (propagates) uniformly outward in a spherical pattern, and the sound level decreases (attenuates) at a rate of approximately 6 dB for each doubling of distance from a stationary or point source (USEPA 1971). Sound from a line source, such as a highway, propagates outward in a cylindrical pattern, often referred to as cylindrical spreading. Sound levels attenuate at a rate of approximately 3 dB for each doubling of distance from a line source, such as a roadway, depending on ground surface characteristics (Federal Highway Administration [FHWA] 2011). Soft surfaces, such as soft dirt or grass, can absorb sound, so an excess ground-attenuation value of 1.5 dB per doubling of distance is normally assumed (FHWA 2011).

Human Response to Noise

The human response to environmental noise is subjective and varies considerably from individual to individual. Noise in the community has often been cited as a health problem, not in terms of actual physiological damage, such as hearing impairment, but in terms of inhibiting general well-being and contributing to undue stress and annoyance. The health effects of noise in the community arise from interference with human activities, including sleep, speech, recreation, and tasks that demand concentration or coordination. Hearing loss can occur at the highest noise intensity levels.

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Noise environments and consequences of human activities are usually well represented by median noise levels during the day or night or over a 24-hour period. Environmental noise levels are generally considered low when the CNEL is below 60 dBA, moderate in the 60- to 70-dBA range, and high, above 70 dBA. Examples of low daytime levels are isolated, natural settings with noise levels as low as 20 dBA and quiet, suburban, residential streets with noise levels around 40 dBA. Noise levels above 45 dBA at night can disrupt sleep. Examples of moderate-level noise environments are urban residential or semi-commercial areas (typically 55 to 60 dBA) and commercial locations (typically 60 dBA). People may consider louder environments adverse, but most will accept the higher levels associated with noisier urban residential or residential-commercial areas (60 to 75 dBA) or dense urban or industrial areas (65 to 80 dBA). Regarding increases in dBA, the following relationships should be noted in understanding this analysis:

- Except in carefully controlled laboratory experiments, a change of 1 dBA cannot be perceived by humans.
- Outside of the laboratory, a 3 dBA change is considered a just-perceivable difference.
- A change in level of at least 5 dBA is required before any noticeable change in community response would be expected. An increase of 5 dBA is typically considered substantial.
- A 10 dBA change is subjectively heard as an approximate doubling in loudness and would almost certainly cause an adverse change in community response.

Noise-Sensitive Land Uses

Noise-sensitive land uses are generally considered to include those where noise exposure could result in health-related risks to individuals, as well as places where quiet is an essential element of their intended purpose. Residential dwellings are of primary concern because of the potential for increased and prolonged exposure of individuals to both interior and exterior noise levels. Additional land uses, such as hospitals, historic sites, cemeteries, and certain recreation areas are considered sensitive to increases in exterior noise levels. Schools, churches, hotels, libraries, and other places, where low interior noise levels are essential, are also considered noise-sensitive land uses.

The nearest existing noise-sensitive land uses to the Project Site are a scattering of single-family residences on the surrounding county roadways, with the closest located at a 92-foot distance.

4.13.1.2 Vibration Fundamentals

Ground vibration can be measured in several ways to quantify the amplitude of vibration produced. This can be through peak particle velocity (PPV) or root mean square velocity. These velocity measurements measure maximum particle at one point or the average of the squared amplitude of the signal, respectively.

Vibration impacts on people can be described as the level of annoyance and can vary depending on an individual's sensitivity. Generally, low-level vibrations may cause window rattling but do not pose any threats to the integrity of buildings or structures.

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4.13.1.3 Existing Ambient Noise Environment

The Project Site consists of forested mountain terrain with graded areas scattered throughout the facility and is currently being used to house an inmate population for emergency incidents, such as fires, floods, and earthquakes. The site is generally bound by Longview Lane to the north with single-family residences beyond; an access road to some wastewater retention ponds (located south of and abutting the Project Area) traversing adjacent to and east of the Project Site with a single-family residence and Reservoir Road beyond; open space wooded forest land to the west with a scattering of single-family residences and various unpaved mountain roads beyond; and a wastewater retention pond to the south with a single-family residence and Longview Lane, which for the most part encircles the Project vicinity from Reservoir Road north of the site, meandering through the scattering of single-family residences surrounding the Project Site, and returning to Reservoir Road beyond. The principle noise source in the Project Area is related to vehicular traffic on Reservoir Road and Longview Lane and the various training and operational activities associated with the Camp facilities. Other noise sources include overflights from the Georgetown Airport and agricultural activities on nearby land uses.

4.13.2 Regulatory Setting

4.13.2.1 El Dorado County General Plan

The Public Health, Safety, and Noise Element of the El Dorado County General Plan provides a basis for comprehensive local policies to control and abate environmental noise and to protect the citizens of the county from excessive noise exposure. By identifying noise-sensitive land uses and establishing compatibility guidelines for land use and noises, noise considerations will influence the general distribution, location, and intensity of future land uses. The result is that effective land use planning and mitigation can alleviate the majority of noise problems. The county defines "community regions" as areas that are appropriate for the highest intensity of self-sustaining compact urban development or suburban development. The county defines "rural centers" as areas of higher intensity development located throughout the rural areas of the county based on the availability of infrastructure, public services, existing uses, parcel size, and impacts on natural resources. The county classifies all lands not contained within the boundaries of a "community region" or a "rural center" as "rural regions". The portion of the county containing the Project site would thus be classified as a rural region and would be subject to the county standards for noise impacts associated with Project construction and operations found in Tables 4-11 and 4-12 below.

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Table 4-11. Noise Level Performance Protection Standards for Noise-Sensitive Land Uses Affected by Non-Transportation Sources						
Noise Level Descriptor	Daytime 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.		Evening 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.		Night 10 p.m. – 7 a.m.	
	Community	Rural	Community	Rural	Community	Rural
Hourly L_{eq} , dB	55	50	50	45	45	40
Maximum level, dB	70	60	60	55	55	50

Source: El Dorado County 2019

Notes: Each of the noise levels specified above shall be lowered by five dB for simple tone noises, noises consisting primarily of speech or music, or for recurring impulsive noises. These noise level standards do not apply to residential units established in conjunction with industrial or commercial uses (e.g., caretaker dwellings). The County can impose noise level standards which are up to 5 dB less than those specified above based upon determination of existing low ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project site. In Community areas the exterior noise level standard shall be applied to the property line of the receiving property. In Rural Areas the exterior noise level standard shall be applied at a point 100' away from the residence. The above standards shall be measured only on property containing a noise sensitive land use as defined in Objective 6.5.1. This measurement standard may be amended to provide for measurement at the boundary of a recorded noise easement between all effected property owners and approved by the County.

Table 4-12. Maximum Allowable Noise Exposure for Non-Transportation Noise Sources in Rural Regions – Construction Noise			
Noise Level Descriptor	Time Period	Noise Level (dB)	
		L_{eq}	L_{max}
All Residential	7 a.m. – 7 p.m.	50	60
	7 p.m. – 10 p.m.	45	55
	10 p.m. – 7 a.m.	40	50
Commercial, Recreation, and Public Facilities	7 a.m. – 7 p.m.	65	75
	7 p.m. – 7 a.m.	60	70
Rural Land, Natural Resources, Open Space, and Agricultural Lands	7 a.m. – 7 p.m.	65	75
	7 p.m. – 7 a.m.	60	70

Source: El Dorado County 2019

The Public Health, Safety, and Noise Element sets various goals and policies that would apply to projects within unincorporated rural regions of El Dorado County. The following goals are applicable to the Proposed Project:

Policy 6.5.1.1: Where noise-sensitive land uses are proposed in areas exposed to existing or projected exterior noise levels exceeding the performance standards of Table 6-2 (presented as Table 4-11 in this analysis), an acoustical analysis shall be required as part of the environmental review process so that noise mitigation may be included in the project design.

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Policy 6.5.1.3: Where noise mitigation measures are required to achieve the standards of Table 6-2 (Table 4-11 in this analysis), the emphasis of such measures shall be placed upon site planning and project design. The use of noise barriers shall be considered a means of achieving the noise standards only after all other practical design-related noise mitigation measures have been integrated into the project and the noise barriers are not incompatible with the surroundings.

Policy 6.5.1.10: To provide a comprehensive approach to noise control, the County shall:

- A) Develop and employ procedures to ensure that noise mitigation measures required pursuant to an acoustical analysis are implemented in the project review process and, as may be determined necessary, through the building permit process.
- B) Develop and employ procedures to monitor compliance with the standards of the Noise Element after completion of projects where noise mitigation measures were required.
- C) The zoning ordinance shall be amended to provide that noise standards will be applied to ministerial projects with the exception of single-family residential building permits if not in areas governed by the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.

6.5.1.11: The standards outlined in [Table 4-12] shall not apply to those activities associated with actual construction of a project as long as such construction occurs between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekends, and on federally recognized holidays. Further, the standards outlined in [Table 4-4] shall not apply to public projects to alleviate traffic congestion and safety hazards.

4.13.2.2 El Dorado County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan

The following Noise Compatibility policies, promulgated from the El Dorado Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP), are applicable to the Project:

Policy 4.2.1: *Evaluating Noise Compatibility*: The noise compatibility of proposed land uses within the influence area of each airport addressed in this Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) shall be evaluated in accordance with the policies set forth in this section together with Table 1, Noise Compatibility Criteria, and the Noise Zone Policy Map for each airport provided in Chapter 6 of the ALUCP.

- (A) The criteria in Table 1, Noise Compatibility Criteria, indicate the maximum acceptable noise exposure for a range of land uses that may be proposed within the airport vicinity. Within the various noise exposure ranges, each land use type is shown as being either "normally compatible," "conditional," or "incompatible." The

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meaning of these terms is stated in the table and differs for indoor versus outdoor uses.

Policy 4.2.2: Maximum Acceptable Exterior Noise Levels: To minimize noise-sensitive development in areas exposed to significant levels of aircraft noise, new land use development shall be restricted in accordance with the following.

- (A) Within the airport-related CNEL 60 dB contour, new residential development—the creation of new residential lots or increase in density on existing lots—shall be prohibited. However, a portion of a residential lot that does not contain a dwelling site may extend into the CNEL 60 dB contour. Exceptions also are provided for existing residential lots (see Policy 2.3.4).
- (B) New nonresidential development shall be deemed incompatible in locations where the airport-related noise exposure would be highly disruptive to the specific land use. Applicable criteria are indicated in Table 1, Noise Compatibility Criteria [of the Compatibility Plan].

Policy 4.2.3: *Maximum Acceptable Interior Noise Levels*: To the extent that the criteria in Table 2-1, Noise Compatibility Criteria [of the Compatibility Plan], and other policies herein permit the development of land uses which interior activities may be easily disrupted by noise, shall be required to comply with the following interior noise level criteria.

- (A) The maximum, aircraft-related, interior noise level that shall be considered acceptable for land uses near airports is:
 - (1) CNEL 45 dB in any habitable room of: Residences; Children’s schools (K-12); Libraries; Long-term lodging (e.g., dormitories), congregate care facilities, and nursing homes; Hotels, motels, and other short-term lodging; Adult educational and institutional facilities; Hospitals; Places of worship, meeting halls, theaters, and mortuaries; and Miscellaneous other uses as listed in Table 1, Noise Compatibility Criteria [of the Compatibility Plan].
 - (2) CNEL 50 dB in: Offices and office areas of industrial facilities; Research and Development facilities; Retail centers and stores; and Personal and miscellaneous services.
- (B) The noise contours depicted in Chapter 6 [of the Compatibility Plan] for each airport shall be used to calculate compliance with these criteria. The calculations should assume that windows are closed.

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4.13.3 Noise (XIII) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact.

4.13.3.1 Onsite Construction Noise

Construction noise associated with the Proposed Project would be temporary and would vary depending on the nature of the activities being performed. Noise generated would primarily be associated with the operation of off-road equipment for onsite construction activities as well as construction vehicle traffic on area roadways. Construction noise typically occurs intermittently and varies depending on the nature or phase of construction (e.g., land clearing, grading, excavation, paving). Noise generated by construction equipment, including earth movers, material handlers, and portable generators, can reach high levels. Typical operating cycles for these types of construction equipment may involve one or two minutes of full power operation followed by three to four minutes at lower power settings. Other primary sources of acoustical disturbance would be random incidents, which would last less than one minute (such as dropping large pieces of equipment or the hydraulic movement of machinery lifts). During construction, exterior noise levels could negatively affect sensitive land uses in the vicinity of the construction site.

The nearest existing noise-sensitive land uses are a scattering of single-family residences surrounding the Project Site, with the closest receptor located at a 92-foot distance. However, it is acknowledged that the majority of construction equipment is not situated at any one location during construction activities, but rather spread throughout the Project Site and at various distances from sensitive receptors. Therefore, this analysis employs Federal Transit Administration (FTA) guidance for calculating construction noise, which recommends measuring construction noise produced by all construction equipment from the center of the Project Site (FTA 2018), which in this case is 435 feet from the nearest sensitive receptor to the northeast. The El Dorado County's General Plan Public Health, Safety and Noise Element states construction equipment operation is exempt from county noise standards between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays. The county does not promulgate a numeric threshold pertaining to the noise associated with construction. This is due to the fact that construction noise is temporary, short term, intermittent in nature, and would cease on completion of the Project. Additionally, construction would occur throughout the Project Site and would not be concentrated at one point.

To estimate the worst-case onsite construction noise levels that may occur at the nearest noise-sensitive receptors in the Project vicinity, the construction equipment noise levels were calculated using the

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Roadway Noise Construction Model for the dredging process and compared against the construction-related noise level threshold established in the Criteria for a Recommended Standard: Occupational Noise Exposure, prepared in 1998 by National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). A division of the US Department of Health and Human Services, NIOSH identifies a noise level threshold based on the duration of exposure to the source. The NIOSH construction-related noise level threshold starts at 85 dBA for more than 8 hours per day; for every 3 dBA increase, the exposure time is cut in half. This reduction results in noise level thresholds of 88 dBA for more than 4 hours per day, 92 dBA for more than 1 hour per day, 96 dBA for more than 30 minutes per day, and up to 100 dBA for more than 15 minutes per day. For the purposes of this analysis, the lowest, more conservative threshold of 85 dBA L_{eq} is used as an acceptable threshold for construction noise at the nearby existing and future planned sensitive receptors.

The anticipated short-term construction noise levels generated for the necessary construction equipment are presented in Table 4-13.

Table 4-13. Construction Average (dBA) Noise Levels at Nearest Receptor			
Equipment	Estimated Exterior Construction Noise Level at Existing Residences	Construction Noise Standards (dBA L_{eq})	Exceeds Standards?
Demolition			
Concrete/Industrial Saw	63.8	85	No
Excavators (3)	57.9 (each)	85	No
Rubber Tired Dozers (2)	58.9 (each)	85	No
Combined Demolition Equipment	67.6	85	No
Site Preparation			
Rubber Tired Dozers (3)	58.9 (each)	85	No
Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes (4)	61.2 (each)	85	No
Combined Site Preparation Equipment	68.8	85	No
Grading			
Excavators (2)	57.9 (each)	85	No
Grader	62.2	85	No
Rubber Tired Dozer	58.9	85	No
Scrapers (2)	60.8 (each)	85	No
Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes (2)	61.2 (each)	85	No
Combined Grading Equipment	69.4	85	No

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Table 4-13. Construction Average (dBA) Noise Levels at Nearest Receptor

Equipment	Estimated Exterior Construction Noise Level at Existing Residences	Construction Noise Standards (dBA L_{eq})	Exceeds Standards?
Construction, Paving, Architectural Coating			
Crane	53.8	85	No
Forklifts (3)	60.6 (each)	85	No
Generator Set	58.8	85	No
Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes (3)	61.2 (each)	85	No
Trencher	58.6	85	No
Welder	51.2	85	No
Pavers (2)	55.4 (each)	85	No
Paving Equipment (2)	63.7 (each)	85	No
Rollers (2)	54.2 (each)	85	No
Air Compressor	54.9	85	No
Combined Construction, Paving, & Architectural Coating	71.9	85	No

Source: Construction noise levels were calculated by ECORP Consulting, Inc. using the FHWA Roadway Noise Construction Model (FHWA 2006). Refer to Attachment A in *Appendix G* for Model Data Outputs.

Notes: Construction equipment used during construction derived from CalEEMod 2016.3.2. CalEEMod is designed to calculate air pollutant emissions from construction activity and contains default construction equipment and usage parameters for typical construction projects based on several construction surveys conducted in order to identify such parameters. Consistent with FTA recommendations for calculating construction noise, construction noise was measured from the center of the Project site (FTA 2018), which is 435 feet from the nearest sensitive receptor. Additionally, Construction, Paving and Architectural Coating phases are assumed to occur simultaneously.

L_{eq} = The equivalent energy noise level, is the average acoustic energy content of noise for a stated period of time. Thus, the L_{eq} of a time-varying noise and that of a steady noise are the same if they deliver the same acoustic energy to the ear during exposure. For evaluating community impacts, this rating scale does not vary, regardless of whether the noise occurs during the day or the night.

As shown in Table 4-13, no individual or cumulative pieces of construction equipment would exceed the 85 dBA significance threshold for construction noise during any phase of construction at the nearby noise-sensitive receptors.

4.13.3.2 Offsite Construction Worker Traffic Noise

Project construction would result in minimal additional traffic on adjacent roadways over the time period that construction occurs. According to the CalEEMod model, which is used to predict air pollutant emissions associated with Project construction and contains default usage parameters for typical construction projects, including the number of worker commute trips and material haul truck trips, the maximum number of construction workers and haul trucks traveling to and from the Project Site on a single day would be during the demolition phase, with 392 total daily trips (15 worker trips and 377 haul truck trips). The worker trips would largely occur within two distinct segments of the day, the morning and

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afternoon, while the haul trips would occur intermittently throughout the workday. According to the Caltrans *Technical Noise Supplement to the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol* (2013), doubling of traffic on a roadway is required to result in an increase of 3 dB (outside of the laboratory, a 3 dBA change is considered a just-perceivable difference). The majority of this construction-related traffic trips would access the Project via SR 193 to Longview Lane and Project construction would not result in a long-term, consistent doubling of traffic on either of these facilities. The maximum number of construction workers and haul trucks traveling to and from the Project Site on a single day would be during the demolition phase with 392 total daily trips, and it is noted that the demolition phase of construction is estimated to last approximately 20 days. For these reasons the contribution to existing traffic noise during Project construction would not be perceptible.

As discussed above, construction noise produced as a result of the Project would result in a less than significant impact.

4.13.3.3 Project Operational Noise

Noise-sensitive land uses are locations where people reside or where the presence of unwanted sound could adversely affect the use of the land. Residences, schools, hospitals, guest lodging, libraries, and some passive recreation areas would each be considered noise-sensitive and may warrant unique measures for protection from intruding noise. The nearest existing noise-sensitive land uses to the Project Site are a scattering of single-family residences on the surrounding county roadways, with the closest located at a 92-foot distance.

4.13.3.4 Operational Offsite Traffic Noise

Project operations would not result in additional traffic on adjacent roadways. As stated previously, the Project proposes the demolition and replacement of existing buildings within the Camp facility and does not propose the addition of any CAL FIRE or CDCR staff that would contribute to an increase in operational traffic on adjacent roadways over current conditions. According to the Caltrans *Technical Noise Supplement to the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol* (2013), doubling of traffic on a roadway is required to result in an increase of 3 dB (outside of the laboratory, a 3 dBA change is considered a just-perceivable difference). The Project would not result in a doubling of traffic during operations and, therefore, its contribution to existing traffic noise would not be perceptible.

4.13.3.5 Project Operational-Onsite Noise Sources

The main stationary operational noise associated with the Project would be from the various activities associated with the ongoing routine inmate Program and CAL FIRE facility. As discussed hitherto, the Project proposes the demolition and replacement of over 80,000 square feet of the Camp facility. There are no new onsite noise sources proposed for the Project Site. Furthermore, the Project would be required to comply with Title 24 standards and other updated regulatory actions set forth between the time of the initial facility construction and this Project proposal, which include, but are not limited to, higher efficiency components (i.e., heating, ventilation, and air condition (HVAC) systems, generators, heavy equipment) that have since been evolving to generate fewer noise level emissions that would be experienced by the

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noise-sensitive receptors in the Project vicinity. Therefore, operational onsite noise sources would be lower than the existing ambient noise baseline conditions currently perceived at the Project Site.

As discussed above, operational noise produced as a result of the Project would result in a less than significant impact.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Result in generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact.

4.13.3.6 Construction Vibration

Excessive ground-borne vibration impacts result from continuously occurring vibration levels. Increases in ground-borne vibration levels attributable to the Project would be primarily associated with short-term construction-related activities. Construction on the Project Site would have the potential to result in varying degrees of temporary ground-borne vibration, depending on the specific construction equipment used and the operations involved. Ground vibration generated by construction equipment spreads through the ground and diminishes in magnitude with increases in distance.

Construction-related ground vibration is normally associated with impact equipment, such as pile drivers and jackhammers, and the operation of some heavy-duty construction equipment, such as dozers and trucks. It is noted that pile drivers would not be necessary during Project construction. Vibration decreases rapidly with distance and it is acknowledged that construction activities would occur throughout the Project Site and would not be concentrated at the point closest to sensitive receptors. Ground-borne vibration levels associated with typical construction equipment at 25-foot distance are summarized in Table 4-14.

Equipment Type	PPV at 25 Feet (inches per second)
Large Bulldozer	0.089
Caisson Drilling	0.089
Loaded Trucks	0.076
Hoe Ram	0.089
Jackhammer	0.035
Small Bulldozer/Tractor	0.003
Vibratory Roller	0.210

Source: FTA 2018; Caltrans 2020b

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The El Dorado County does not regulate vibrations associated with construction. However, a discussion of construction vibration is included for full disclosure purposes. For comparison purposes, the Caltrans (2020) recommended standard of 0.2 inch per second PPV with respect to the prevention of structural damage for older residential buildings is used as a threshold. This is also the level at which vibrations may begin to annoy people in buildings. Consistent with FTA recommendations for calculating vibration generated from construction equipment, construction vibration was measured from the center of the Project site (FTA 2018). The nearest structure of concern to the construction site, with regard to ground-borne vibrations, is an outbuilding associated with a single-family property located 536 feet east of the Project site center.

Based on the representative vibration levels presented for various construction equipment types in Table 4-14 and the construction vibration assessment methodology published by the FTA (2018), it is possible to estimate the potential Project construction vibration levels. The FTA provides the following equation:

$$[PPV_{\text{equip}} = PPV_{\text{ref}} \times (25/D)^{1.5}]$$

Table 4-15 presents the expected Project-related vibration levels at a distance of 536 feet.

Table 4-15. Construction Vibration Levels at 177 Feet							
Receiver PPV Levels (in/sec)¹					Peak Vibration	Threshold	Exceed Threshold
Large Bulldozer, Caisson Drilling, & Hoe Ram	Loaded Trucks	Jackhammer	Small Bulldozer	Vibratory Roller			
0.001	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.002	0.2	No

Notes:

¹Based on the Vibration Source Levels of Construction Equipment included in Table 4-14 (FTA 2018). Distance to the nearest structure of concern is approximately 536 feet measured from Project Site center.

As shown in Table 4-14, vibration as a result of construction activities would not exceed 0.2 PPV at the nearest structure. Thus, Project construction would not exceed the recommended threshold. The impact would be less than significant.

Operational Vibration

Project operations would not include the use of any large-scale stationary equipment that would result in excessive vibration levels. Therefore, the Project would not result in ground-borne vibration impacts during operations. No impact would occur.

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Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project Area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No Impact.

The Project Site is located approximately 0.89 mile south of the Georgetown Airport in the unincorporated Community of Georgetown. As shown on the Georgetown Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan *Airport Noise Zones Policy Map* (El Dorado 2012), the Proposed Project lies just outside of the 55-60 dBA CNEL contour lines, and inside the Airport Influence Area contour line. According to the ALUCP’s policies described previously, land uses proposed for development that fall within the Airport Influence Area are subject to policies 4.2.2 and 4.2.3. Policy 4.2.2 addresses new nonresidential development in locations where the airport-related exterior noise exposure would be highly disruptive to the specific land use, and Policy 4.2.3 limits the development of land uses that would experience aircraft-related interior noise levels that could cause disruption to activities associated with the specific land use. However, as stated above, the Project Site lies outside of the CNEL contour lines associated with aircraft-related noise levels that would exceed interior/exterior levels that could cause disruption to the specific land use and, therefore, would not expose people working or residing at the facility to excessive airport noise. Additionally, the Project proposes the demolition and replacement of the existing facility and would not be exposing new operational employees or inmates to additional airport noise above the current ambient environment experienced at the Project Site. No impact would occur.

4.13.4 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.14 Population and Housing

4.14.1 Environmental Setting

The Project Site will have the same use after the completion of the Proposed Project. The population of Georgetown was approximately 2,577 in 2019. (U.S. Census Bureau 2019). Total number of households is 887 and the Census data shows the average number of persons per household is 2.8. By comparison, El Dorado County averages 2.6 persons per household across its 74,216 households countywide.

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4.14.2 Population and Housing (XIV) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No Impact.

The Proposed Project would not increase the number of homes or provide additional offsite infrastructure in the area. No impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Displace substantial numbers of people or existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No Impact.

The Proposed Project would not displace any people or existing housing. CAL FIRE staff would continue to operate from the existing facility throughout construction. No impact would occur.

4.14.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.15 Public Services

4.15.1 Environmental Setting

4.15.1.1 Police Services

The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office provides for the public safety of the community and serves as part of the emergency response for the Project Site. The County Sheriff's office has a substation located at 6101 Front Street, Suite 4, in Georgetown, CA 95633.

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4.15.1.2 Fire Services

Regional

The Georgetown Fire Department is located at 6283 Main Street, Georgetown, CA. According to their website, the Fire Department's Fire District covers 96 square miles containing 2,330 parcels. The population of the district is about 6,500.

Current Fire Department staffing includes a full time Chief, a full-time Administrative Assistant, one full-time Fire Training Officer-Paramedic, one full-time Firefighter-Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and a full-time Fire Equipment Mechanic. There are five Firefighter/Paramedics and one Firefighter/EMT assigned to the ambulance. The Firefighter/EMT also serves as the District Fire Prevention Officer. There are approximately 30 fire line volunteer firefighters on the roster.

During fire season, the district operates with seasonal firefighters in order to have at least two firefighters on each wildland engine per response. The number of seasonal firefighters employed is directly related to available funding.

Onsite

Currently, the existing fire system at the facility is served by the existing domestic water system connection. It is proposed that a new fire system will be installed and fed from the 6-inch GDPUD water main on Longview Lane. A hydrant flow test was completed on February 12, 2021, and it yielded a flow rate of 544 gpm at 20 psi residual. The Project Site requires a fire flow rate of 1625 gpm for a 3-hour duration. As GDPUD can provide 544 gpm, an additional 1,081gpm is required for three hours. This results in a storage amount of 194,580 gallons. At a minimum, it is recommended that two 100,000-gallon tanks be installed. The proposed project includes two 250,000-gallon tank, which is well above the recommended minimum.

A new onsite fire system will be installed to service the campus. This includes new hydrants and fire department connections to supply the fire sprinklers that are required in each building. The fire system will need to be supplied from a fire pump system to provide the required pressure and flow to adequately service the facility.

4.15.1.3 Schools

The Black Oak Mine Unified School District, headquartered at 6540 Wentworth Springs Rd, Georgetown, CA 95634, is home to six schools, ranging from Transitional Kindergarten through 12th grade. There are no schools within one mile of the Project Site; however, there are a few schools within two miles east of the Project Site in Georgetown.

4.15.1.4 Parks

There are a number of open space and large recreational parks to the east of the Project Site. See Section 4.16 *Recreation* for more information on parks within the Project Area.

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4.15.2 Public Services (XV) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other Public Facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No Impact.

There will be no substantial adverse impacts associated with the Proposed Project, which will replace/improve the existing Growlersburg Conservation Camp with the construction of an updated facility that would allow the Camp to continue to provide fire protection services to the region. The Proposed Project does not require an expansion of residential housing and would not induce population growth. No impact would occur to public facilities in the area.

4.15.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.16 Recreation

4.16.1 Environmental Setting

The Georgetown Divide Recreation District manages parks within the area. Georgetown Park and Beam Field are located about one and half miles east and northeast of the Project Site.

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4.16.2 Recreation (XVI) Materials Checklist

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No Impact.

The Proposed Project would not generate an increase in the area population; therefore, it would not significantly increase the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks and recreational facilities. There would be no impact.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No Impact.

The Proposed Project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. There would be no impact.

4.16.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.17 Transportation

4.17.1 Environmental Setting

The Growlersburg Conservation Camp is located on Longview Lane, which is a small two-lane collector road that dead-ends into Highway 193/Georgetown Road. Highway 193/Georgetown Road runs from Highway 49 in Cool east through Growlersburg, where it turns south and runs through Kelsey and ultimately ends at Highway 49 just north of the Highway 49/US 50 interchange. Traffic along Longview Lane is mainly composed of residents and Camp employees, visitors, and deliveries.

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4.17.2 Transportation (XVII) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact.

The Project Site is located near the rural community of Georgetown on a rural roadway that currently only receives traffic limited to the surrounding rural residences and the existing Camp operations. The Proposed Project is not anticipated to add or create additional vehicular traffic beyond current conditions that would result in a conflict with transportation system performance along Longview Lane or the surrounding roadways. Thus, a traffic impact analysis is not required to calculate the Project's effect on the transportation system.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No Impact.

El Dorado County has not yet adopted specific vehicle miles traveled (VMT) metrics or thresholds of significance for transportation studies in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b). However, the California Office of Planning and Research (OPR) has identified projects generating less than 110 daily trips as appropriate for screening from VMT analysis. The Project is not anticipated to generate additional trips above what is currently generated by the facility and would not exceed the 110 daily net new trips and would, therefore, be exempt from VMT analysis according to the OPR recommendations.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact.

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The onsite circulation pattern is adequate for the proposed use and the site plan provides separate pathways for pedestrian circulation. The Project would not introduce transportation hazards and related impacts are less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No Impact.

The Proposed Project will not block roadways or otherwise cut off emergency access. The Project itself provides fire protection and emergency response to other areas. Impacts are expected to be less than significant, and no further analysis is required on this subject.

4.17.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

4.18.1 Ethnographic, Religious, and Cultural Context

Ethnographically, the Project Area is in the southwestern portion of the territory occupied by the Penutian-speaking Nisenan. Nisenan inhabited the drainages of the Yuba, Bear, and American rivers, and also the lower reaches of the Feather River, extending from the east banks of the Sacramento River on the west to the mid to high elevations of the western flank of the Sierra Nevada to the east (Wilson and Towne 1978). The territory extended from the area surrounding the current city of Oroville in the north to a few miles south of the American River in the south. The Sacramento River bounded the territory on the west and, in the east, it extended to a general area located within a few miles of Lake Tahoe.

During most of the year, Nisenan usually lived in permanent villages located below about 2,500 feet that generally had a southern exposure, were surrounded by an open area, and were located above, but close to, watercourses (Littlejohn 1928). The rather large uninhabited region between the 3,000-foot contour and the summit of the Sierra Nevada was considered "open ground" that was only used by communities living along its edge (Littlejohn 1928:20). Beals (1933) noted that permanent villages in the foothills and mountains were usually located on high ground between rivers. Valley villages were also usually located on raised areas to avoid flooding. Littlejohn (1928) stated that at one time or another there were settlements located on every small stream within Nisenan territory, but permanent villages were not located in steep, dark, narrow canyons of large rivers, or at altitudes where deep snows persisted throughout the winter. In fact, permanent occupation sites above 3,500 feet were only located in protected valleys (Littlejohn 1928).

The Spanish arrived on the central California coast in 1769, and by 1776 it had been explored by José Canizares. In 1833, an epidemic, most likely to be malaria, raged through the Sacramento Valley, killing an estimated 75 percent of the native population. The discovery of gold in 1848 at Sutter's Mill, near the

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Nisenan village of *Colluma* (now Coloma) on the South Fork of the American River, drew thousands of miners into the area, and led to widespread killing and the virtual destruction of traditional Native American cultures.

4.18.2 Regulatory Setting

4.18.2.1 Assembly Bill 52

Effective July 1, 2015, AB 52 amended CEQA to require that: 1) a lead agency provide notice to those California Native American tribes that requested notice of projects proposed by the lead agency; and 2) for any tribe that responded to the notice within 30 days of receipt with a request for consultation, the lead agency must consult with the tribe. Topics that may be addressed during consultation include TCRs, the potential significance of project impacts, type of environmental document that should be prepared, and possible mitigation measures and project alternatives.

Pursuant to AB 52, Section 21073 of the PRC defines California Native American tribes as “a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004.” This includes both federally and non-federally recognized tribes.

Section 21074(a) of the PRC defines TCRs for the purpose of CEQA as:

- 1) Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes (geographically defined in terms of the size and scope), sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
 - a. included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR; and/or
 - b. included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1; and/or
 - c. a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Because criteria a and b also meet the definition of a Historical Resource under CEQA, a TCR may also require additional consideration as a Historical Resource. TCRs may or may not exhibit archaeological, cultural, or physical indicators.

Recognizing that California tribes are experts in their tribal cultural resources and heritage, AB 52 requires that CEQA lead agencies provide tribes that requested notification an opportunity to consult at the commencement of the CEQA process to identify TCRs. Furthermore, because a significant effect on a TCR is considered a significant impact on the environment under CEQA, consultation is used to develop appropriate avoidance, impact minimization, and mitigation measures.

In accordance with Section 21082.3(c)(1) of the PRC, “... information, including, but not limited to, the location, description, and use of the tribal cultural resources, that is submitted by a California Native

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American tribe during the environmental review process shall not be included in the environmental document or otherwise disclosed by the lead agency or any other public agency to the public, consistent with subdivision (r) of Section 6254 of, and Section 6254.10 of, the Government Code, and subdivision (d) of Section 15120 of Title 14 of the CCR, without the prior consent of the tribe that provided the information." Therefore, the details of tribal consultation summarized herein are provided in a confidential administrative record and not available for public disclosure without written permission from the tribes.

Summary of AB 52 Consultation

At the time CAL FIRE was ready to initiate CEQA review, it had received written requests from numerous tribes to receive Project notices. CAL FIRE determined that of these requests, the United Auburn Indian Community of Auburn Rancheria (UAIC) represented the only culturally affiliated California Native American Tribe. Therefore, on April 28, 2021, within 14 days of determining that it had a complete project description and it was prepared to begin review under CEQA, CAL FIRE sent an initial notification letter to the UAIC of the Proposed Project in accordance with AB52. The notification letter included Project information and an invitation to consult on the Project. CAL FIRE requested a response to the offer to consult within 30 days of the receipt of the letter. The close of the response period was on May 28, 2021. The UAIC has not requested AB52 consultation as of the date of this document.

Therefore, in accordance with PRC 21082.3(d)(3), CAL FIRE proceeded without tribal consultation and this CEQA document draws from other lines of evidence to determine whether or not TCRs will be impacted by the Proposed Project.

4.18.2.2 Summary of Other Tribal Consultation

Separate from AB52, CAL FIRE maintains a list of Native American tribes to be contacted for projects within El Dorado County to seek out information regarding possible Native American resources within or near the Project Area. These tribes include:

- Lone Band of Miwok Indians
- Shingle Spring Band of Miwok Indians
- UAIC
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
- Wilton Rancheria

CAL FIRE sent a notification letter to the above tribes regarding the Proposed Project that contained information and a request for information about Native American resources within the Project Area. CAL FIRE requested responses to the offer to consult within 30 days of the receipt of the letter. The close of the response period was on May 28, 2021.

Anna Starkey from the UAIC responded to CAL FIRE requesting more information regarding the Project, but did not request formal consultation, nor did the tribe provide information regarding knowledge of Native American resources in the Project Area. CAL FIRE sent the requested information to UAIC, and

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asked if they needed more information or were requesting formal consultation. No response was received. CAL FIRE followed up again by email and by phone message to ask if the tribe was requesting any additional information or formal consultation, and no response was received to either message. No other tribes have responded to date.

Tribal Cultural Resources

In the absence of tribes wishing to consult under AB52, information about potential impacts to TCRs was drawn from the results of a search of the Sacred Lands File of the NAHC, existing ethnographic information about pre-contact lifeways and settlement patterns, and information on archaeological site records obtained from the CHRIS.

Sacred Lands File Search

A search of the NAHC Sacred Lands File was requested for the Project Area on January 26, 2021. The NAHC responded on February 12, 2021, that the Sacred Lands File search was negative, which means that no sacred lands have been recorded within the Project Area. The NAHC included a list of suggested tribal representatives to contact who are culturally affiliated with the region. The UAIC was on the list of contacts and the tribe was offered an opportunity to consult, as summarized above.

Ethnographic Information

The ethnographic information reviewed for the Project, including ethnographic maps (Wilson and Towne 1978), lists the nearest Native American village as *Siwim Pakan*, located 5 miles to the southeast of the Project Area, near Bear Creek. There is nothing in the ethnographic literature that suggests that the Project location is either known or suspected to have ethnographic villages or resources within its boundaries.

CHRIS Records Search and Pre-Contact Resources

The entire Project Area was subjected to an archaeological survey and records search review, and no Native American sites were identified within its boundaries. Approximately 30 percent of the area within a 0.5-mile radius surrounding the Project Area has been subject to cultural surveys, and five pre-contact archaeological sites have been previously recorded in the vicinity.

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4.18.3 Tribal Cultural Resources (XVIII) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

The search of the Sacred Lands File by the NAHC did not identify sacred lands within or immediately adjacent to the Project Area. The CHRIS records search indicated there are five pre-contact Native American resources within 0.5 mile of the Project Area. Therefore, evidence suggests that there is a low to moderate potential for TCRs inside the Project Area.

No TCRs were identified within the Project Area and the Proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse action to a known TCR. However, impacts to unknown TCRs that may be discovered during Project construction is considered a potentially significant impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measure **TCR-1** would reduce this impact to less than significant.

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4.18.4 Mitigation Measures

TCR-1: Implement Measures to Protect Unanticipated Tribal Cultural Resources Discoveries. If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within 100 feet of the discovery. The construction foreman will notify DGS and CAL FIRE, which shall notify culturally affiliated tribe(s) and a qualified professional archaeologist. The responding tribe(s) will be afforded a reasonable opportunity to visit the discovery location to determine whether or not it is a tribal cultural resource. The following actions shall apply, depending on the nature of the find:

- If the culturally affiliated tribe(s) determines that the find does not represent a tribal cultural resource, and the qualified professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a potential historical resource, and CAL FIRE concurs, then work may resume immediately, and no further action is required.
- If the culturally affiliated or consulting tribe(s) determines that the find does represent a tribal cultural resource, as defined in PRC Section 21074(a) though (c) of the CEQA Guidelines, DGS and CAL FIRE shall consult with the tribe on appropriate treatment measures. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until DGS and CAL FIRE, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.
- If the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, the construction supervisor shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance (Assembly Bill [AB] 2641) and shall immediately notify DGS, CAL FIRE, and the El Dorado County Coroner (per § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of § 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, § 5097.98 of the California PRC, and AB 2641 will be implemented. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner will notify the NAHC within 24 hours. The NAHC will designate a Native American MLD for the discovery (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC can mediate (§ 5097.94 of the PRC). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinternment document with El Dorado County (AB 2641). Work may not resume within the no-work radius until DGS and/or CAL FIRE, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.

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4.19 Utilities and Service Systems

4.19.1 Water Service

There is an existing four-inch domestic water service that is fed off the GDPUD six-inch water main located at the north end of the campus off Longview Lane. This existing water service is sufficient to service the campus improvements. All onsite domestic water distribution pipe will be replaced with new pipes to meet current health code requirements.

4.19.2 Wastewater

Currently, onsite wastewater is conveyed to a large septic tank located in the field/staging area near the southern edge of the open grass field on the Project Site. Wastewater is then conveyed to the onsite Sewage Treatment Plant and into the existing treatment ponds. There also exists a tank and pump north of the shop area to allow for storage in emergency situations.

It is proposed that existing wastewater pipelines be replaced with new PVC pipe (SDR26 or SDR35). New piping will be placed throughout the campus to service the buildings. The existing septic tank, Sewage Treatment Plant, and treatment ponds are proposed to remain as there are no apparent service issues.

4.19.3 Drainage

The Project Site would maintain existing grades. Generally, the site currently slopes from north to south. A network of new storm drain piping will connect storm drain inlets and subdrains throughout the Project Area to collect anticipated runoff. All roof drains will be hard piped to the storm drain system. It is proposed that the storm drains will connect to outfalls and drain across the natural grade to the south, similar to the current discharge patterns.

4.19.4 Electricity

PG&E will continue to provide electricity for the Project Site.

4.19.5 Natural Gas

Existing propane tanks serve the site and a new tank is proposed to serve the demand of the new buildings.

4.19.6 Solid Waste

Solid waste collection is provided by El Dorado Disposal.

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4.19.7 Utilities and Service Systems (XIX) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact.

Project implementation will not result in a substantial increase in impervious surfaces on the site. A network of new storm drain piping will connect storm drain inlets and subdrains throughout the Project Area to collect anticipated runoff. Piped drainage will discharge at the south end of the project site where it will flow in a southwesterly direction through natural drainage channels before entering one of multiple existing culverts at the south end of Longview Lane in order to discharge under the road. Downstream of the culverts the runoff continues to flow off site through existing, natural drainage channels in a southerly direction.

GDPUD will continue to provide water service for the Proposed Project. The existing septic, storage tank, and treatment ponds will remain in their current condition and will not be altered as a part of the Proposed Project. The Project would not result in the construction or relocation of new utility infrastructure having significant environmental effects. Utilities serving the site will be upgraded as part of the Proposed Project, but there will be no relocation or expanded service. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur. No mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact.

The Project Site requires a fire flow rate of 1,625 gpm for a 3-hour duration. As GDPUD can provide 544 gpm, an additional 1,081 gpm is required for three hours. This results in a storage amount of 194,580 gallons. In order to serve proper fire suppression, at minimum, it is recommended that two 100,000 gallon tanks be installed. However, the proposed project will be installing two 250,000 gallon tanks which is well above the minimum recommended. Additionally, the Proposed Project will continue to be served

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for domestic water by the GDPUD and will not require additional domestic water supply. A less than significant impact would occur. No mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact.

As stated above, onsite wastewater is conveyed to a large septic tank located in the field/staging area near the southern edge of the open grass field on the Project Site. Wastewater is then conveyed to the onsite Sewage Treatment Plant and into the existing treatment ponds. There also exists a tank and pump north of the shop area to allow for storage in emergency situations.

It is proposed that existing wastewater pipelines be replaced with new PVC pipe (SDR26 or SDR35). New piping will be placed throughout the campus to service the buildings. The existing septic, storage tank, and treatment ponds are proposed to remain as there are no service issues. A less than significant impact would occur. No mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact.

The Proposed Project is not anticipated to increase the amount of existing facility usage over existing conditions. The redevelopment of the site is intended to upgrade and bring the site to modern CAL FIRE standards. The Proposed Project will not increase the number of employees over the existing staff and, therefore, would not increase the amount of solid waste generated over the current generation rate and would have a less than significant impact in this area.

A temporary increase in waste would occur during construction-related activities and is not expected to exceed the capacity of local infrastructure/landfills and would not impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. The new facility is replacing an existing facility, and solid waste produced from operations and maintenance would be equivalent to the amount currently produced at the existing facility. No mitigation required.

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Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact.

The disposal of solid waste due to construction activities will comply with all federal, state, and applicable local statutes and regulations. Impacts to solid waste statutes and regulations will be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

4.19.8 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.20 Wildfire

4.20.1 Environmental Setting

The Project objective is to replace the facility with the construction of a new facility that would better accommodate the existing inmate population and would continue to provide fire protection and emergency-response service to the region. The Proposed Project is in a rural residential area surrounded by forests.

Generally, California fire season extends from spring to late fall. Fire conditions arise from a combination of hot weather, an accumulation of vegetation, and low moisture content in the air. These conditions, when combined with high winds and years of drought, increase the potential for wildfire to occur. CAL FIRE provides wildland fire protection services on private, non-federal lands for the purpose of life, property, and resource protection. The U.S. Forest Service provides wildland fire protection services on federal lands in Federal Responsibility Areas for watershed and resource protection. Some areas are also identified as Local Responsibility Areas.

According to the Draft Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State or Federal Responsibility Area map published by CAL FIRE, the Project Site is located in a very high fire hazards severity zone of state responsibility in El Dorado.

The Georgetown Fire Department provides fire protection support to the site and surrounding area.

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4.20.2 Wildfire (XX) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

No Impact.

The Proposed Project is located in an area classified as very high fire hazard severity zones. However, the Proposed Project will not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Additionally, the Camp's inmates are used as hand crews for fighting wild land fires. Additionally, it will not impair any adopted emergency response plans. No impact would occur.

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact.

As stated above, the Proposed Project is located in an area classified as very high fire hazard severity zones. However, the Proposed Project is a conservation camp that houses more than 130 inmates that are trained and used as hand crews for fighting wild land fires. The Project will not change the slope of the terrain and would be replacing older structures with new modern construction materials that have a lower fire risk. A less than significant impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact.

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The Proposed Project is currently is use as a conservation camp and the Project is intended to upgrade the existing facility to improve public safety, including an improved fire suppression system onsite and improved ability to respond to wildfire incidents. The existing fire system at the facility is served by the existing domestic water system connection. It is proposed that a new fire system will be installed and fed from the 6-inch GDPUD water main on Longview Lane. A hydrant flow test was completed on February 12, 2021, and it yielded a flow rate of 544 gpm at 20 psi residual. The Project Site requires a fire flow rate of 1,625 gpm for a 3-hour duration. As GDPUD can provide 544 gpm, an additional 1,081gpm is required for three hours. This results in a storage amount of 194,580 gallons. At a minimum, it is recommended that two 100,000-gallon tanks be installed. However, the proposed project will be installing two 250,000 gallon tanks which is well above the minimum recommended.

A new onsite fire system will be installed to service the campus. This includes new hydrants and fire department connections to supply the fire sprinklers that are required in each building. The fire system will need to be supplied from a fire pump system to provide the required pressure and flow to adequately service the facility. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not increase the fire risks by reducing current safety and fire reduction measures on the Project Site. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not exacerbate fire risks and would, therefore, be a less than significant impact. No mitigation is required.

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact.

The Proposed Project is located at the top of a ridge and is not likely subject to downstream flooding. Additionally, the Proposed Project would make improvements to the existing facility by rebuilding structures in the same location and with a similar footprint. The new buildings will be constructed using current fire reducing materials and methods. The site is operated by CAL FIRE and as explained above has implemented safety protocol and fire reducing measures. Construction of the facility would not create a new exposure or increase risks for fires and post-fire issues. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact. No mitigation is required.

4.20.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

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4.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

4.21.1 Mandatory Findings of Significance (XXI) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Does the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

As described in Section 4.4 *Biological Resources* of this document, biological resources on the site could be impacted by the Proposed Project. Mitigation Measures **PLANT-1, PLANT-2, BIRD-1, BAT-1, and OAK-1** would be implemented to ensure all potential impacts to sensitive species and their habitats, are mitigated to less than significant levels.

As indicated in Section 4.5 *Cultural Resources* and Section 4.18 *Tribal Cultural Resources*, the Proposed Project is expected to avoid direct impacts to known cultural and tribal resources. Further, implementation of Mitigation Measures **CUL-1** and **TCR-1** will ensure potential impacts to unknown cultural and tribal resources are reduced to less than significant levels. Should any cultural or tribal cultural resources or human remains be encountered during construction, all construction activities would be halted, and a professional archeologist consulted. Similarly, implementation of Mitigation Measure **GEO-1** would ensure potential impacts to unknown paleontological resources are mitigated to less than significant.

Does the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated.

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As described above, impacts to biological, cultural, and paleontological impacts will be reduced with implementation of listed mitigation measures. All other impacts were found to be less than significant (including traffic, air quality, noise and GHG). Therefore, cumulative would be less than significant.

Does the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Less than Significant Impact.

Potential impacts to human beings include increases in ambient noise during construction and increases in air emissions including PM (dust) during construction. These impacts were found to be temporary and less than significant. Implementation of the Project’s Mitigation Monitoring Program will ensure compliance with related measures and would minimize impacts to the greatest extent feasible.

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7.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A – Schematic Design Plans, Lionakis

Appendix B – Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessment, Growlersburg
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Appendix C – Biological Resources Assessment, Growlersburg Conservation Camp Project,
ECORP Consulting, Inc. DRAFT

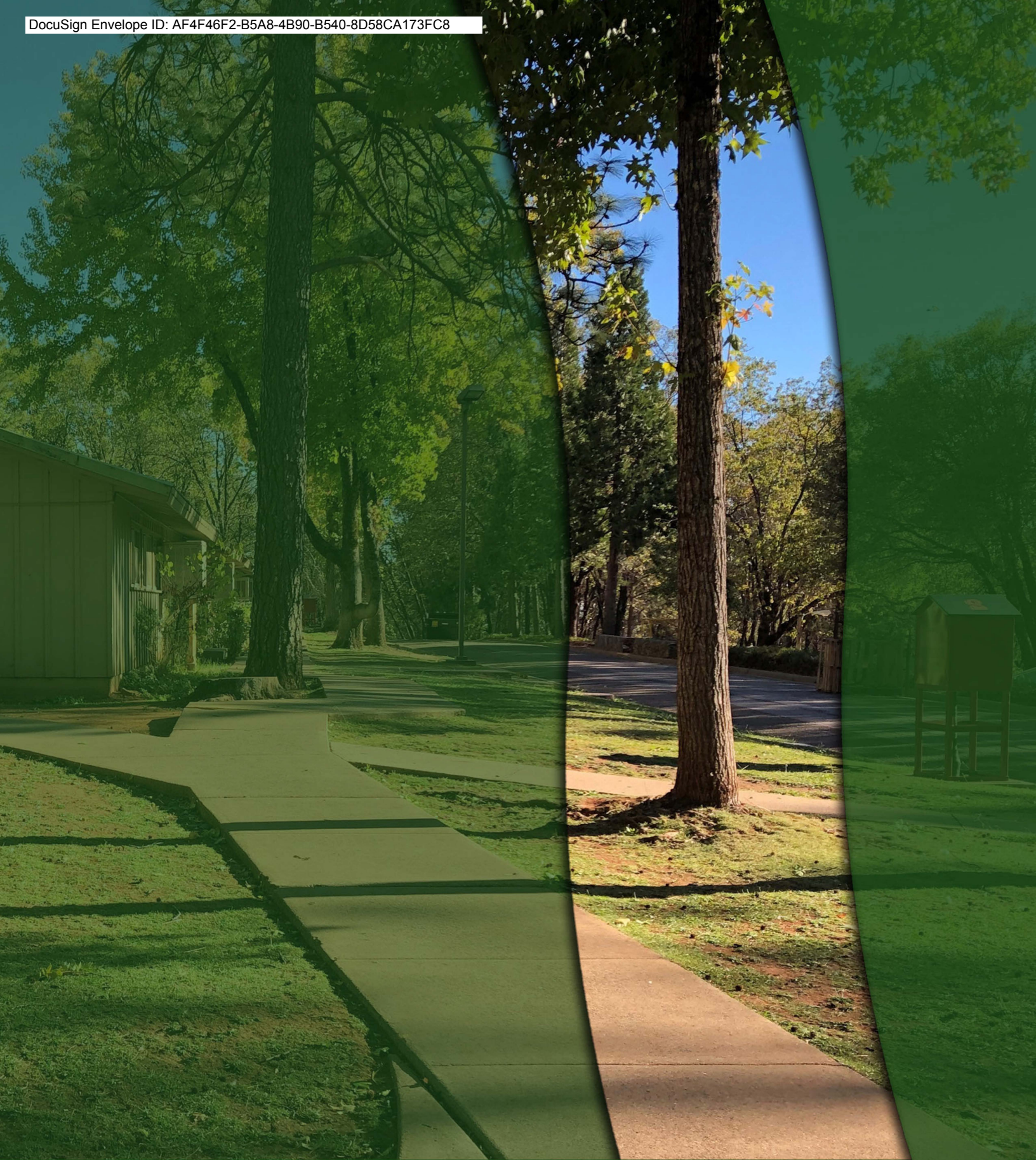
Appendix D – CONFIDENTIAL Cultural Resources Inventory and Architectural History Evaluation
Report, CAL FIRE Growlersburg Conservation Camp Replacement Project,
ECORP Consulting, Inc. April 16, 2020

Appendix E – Paleontological Records Search: Growlersburg Project, El Dorado County, Kenneth
Finger Ph.D., 2021

Appendix F1 – Geologic Hazards Evaluation and Geotechnical Investigation Report, Kleinfelder,
December 15, 2008

Appendix F2 – Limited Geotechnical Engineering Report, Wallace-Kuhl & Associates,
September 2, 2020

Appendix G – Noise Impact Assessment, ECORP Consulting, Inc., April 2021



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